



GLENN RICHARDSON  
SPEAKER

## House of Representatives

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May 7, 2007

Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Perdue:

I would like to begin this letter and my meeting with you today by extending an apology for the words I directed toward you two weeks ago. When I spoke, I was upset, defensive of the House and quite exhausted by the lengthy session and the final adoption by us of the 07 and 08 budgets in the preceding 36 hours. While I feel some of my response was initiated by the actions and remarks of others, this is not the time to make excuses or lay blame on others. Instead, it is time for me to apologize to you and do all in my power to reach out to you, the Senate and the Lieutenant Governor again in an effort to resolve the apparent strife which appears to be interfering with our ability to resolve this current impasse. So, I say again to you that I apologize for the words I used and for my poor choice to use such. I respectfully ask you to accept my apology. And, I ask you to join with me as I reach out to the Senate and the Lieutenant Governor to resolve our differences.

With that said, I would like to now suggest to you a fair and simple way to resolve this budget situation WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF ANY SPECIAL SESSION. I suggested this idea to the Lieutenant Governor and the Senate some time back, but apparently it has not been pursued further by them in conversations. I believe it is not only possible to avoid a costly special session, I believe it is imperative that we act quickly to fund those necessary items which need immediate attention such as the midyear adjustment for local school systems, PeachCare and tornado relief for Sumter County to name only a few.

The solution, I believe, rests in whether the veto of 07 has actually been *transmitted* to the House or not. If you will simply strike through the word "vetoed," which was written by you on April 18, 2007, and sign the bill again, I believe the supplemental appropriations bill will become law. The question of whether the vetoed bill was *transmitted* to the House will be then mooted. Moreover, I believe that the only entity

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who could thereafter question whether there had been a transmittal would be the House. And, by this letter and my signature, I am agreeing on this resolution. Thus, the action would not again be raised and would be final.

Under this process, a special session would not be necessary. The needed programs which are funded by the 07 supplemental would be funded instantly. The tax relief to the homeowners of Georgia would be sustained. The other questions have or may be addressed through our joint agreement. First, the funding of adult literacy teachers has been resolved in cooperation with DTAE and the 08 budget. The PAC believes if we will commit to help in the supplemental 08, they can change a payroll period in 07 and not have layoffs or furloughs. The hazardous waste trust fund is funded in the amount of \$7.6 million which is the exact amount of the original 07 recommended budget. Plus, the fund has approximately \$10 million in its reserves. The pandemic flu vaccine is perhaps better left to a lengthy policy discussion. However, it has been funded in the amount of \$7 million in the 08 budget and, if necessary, may be addressed with emergency funds or in the 08 supplemental. Finally, while there may be other miscellaneous funding questions on the horizon, I commit to answer true needs with the supplemental 08 budget or, at your request, in the Fiscal Affairs Committee.

In conclusion, I apologize to you again for my words. You and I have been friends and on the same team for a long time now—especially in terms of "political time." I do greatly respect you and your position. I trust that my steadfast loyalty to you for five years plus now is the best indicator of those words and not my words of a couple weeks back. Moreover, now we must act wisely and prudently to guide our State through this stormy time. I firmly believe a special session is not the best decision for us or our State. I likewise believe a special session is not necessary given my above outline of a proposed remedy. I hope you agree with me and will consider this approach. If you would like to discuss this further or in more detail, I stand ready, willing and able to meet with you or whomever you may choose to resolve this situation. Thank you in advance for your consideration, your wisdom and your leadership. I look forward to serving beside you for many more years as we lead this great State of Georgia.

Sincerely,

Glenn Richardson, Speaker