

**Erin Murphy**  
State Representative

District 64A  
Ramsey County



# Minnesota House of Representatives

March 14, 2014

Commissioner Spencer Cronk  
Minnesota Department of Administration  
200 Administration Building  
50 Sherburne Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Commissioner Cronk,

During the February 27<sup>th</sup> House Rules hearing regarding the Capitol Restoration project and proposed new Senate legislative office building, there was discussion of alternative options for housing Senators during restoration of the Capitol. Based on that discussion, there are a number of questions remaining as to the cost of these alternative items discussed.

1. What would be the overall cost of leasing temporary space, including rent, build-out costs, operational costs, etc.? What current building and location leasing options are available to temporarily house the Senate during reconstruction? Given this would be a temporary option, would additional space need to be found for housing the Senate permanently?
2. What would be the overall cost of leasing permanent space for the Senate, including rent, build-out costs, operational costs, etc.? What is the likelihood that space is available on or near the Capitol complex to accommodate the Senate permanently?
3. Many members have had questions regarding repurposing of the existing Ford Building. Is the Ford Building capable of providing the additional space needed? If so, what would be the cost to repurpose the Ford Building? If not, what other options would need to be considered?
4. Is the Department of Administration capable of providing the additional space needed? If so, what would be the cost to repurpose the Department of Administration? If not, what other options would need to be considered? What would be the cost of relocating the current tenants should this option be pursued?



5. Would it be possible to move the Senate to the Department of Transportation? If so, what would be the cost to repurpose the Department of Transportation? What would the cost be to relocate current tenants should this option be pursued?

In your responses to these questions, please include both an annual cost estimate and a total, 30-year cost estimate, so as to provide easy comparison with the costs of a Legislative Office Building over the lifespan of that new building.

Your testimony at the hearing indicated the need to find swing space temporarily during Capitol Restoration, as well as, permanent space going forward due to an overall reduction in usable square footage after Capitol Restoration. As such, it appears that in order to move forward with restoration of the Capitol, space for the Senate must be found.

This information will be instructive as we consider this issue in the House Rules Committee. As such, I would request that you respond to these questions in writing as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Erin Murphy  
Majority Leader  
Minnesota House of Representatives

Cc: Governor Mark Dayton  
Majority Leader Thomas Bakk  
Minority Leader Kurt Daudt