



Washington State Auditor
Brian Sonntag

April 24, 2009

The Honorable Frank Chopp
Speaker
House of Representatives
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Frank:

I just reviewed Representative Kelli Linville's striking amendment to SHB 1244, making 2009-11 operating appropriations.

The section that sweeps away most of our performance audit funding is ridiculous and offensive both to us and to citizens. The cuts are unacceptable and will severely undercut our ability to do independent performance audits.

In addition, basing our future performance audit funding on cost-savings realized by state agencies is entirely unworkable. As you know, we do not enforce audit findings. Should agencies choose not to follow cost-saving recommendations, we would be penalized, rather than the agencies themselves. It also is a violation of government auditing standards.

I am deeply disappointed in the way the budget process has worked this year. The lack of clear, on-going communication with your members regarding our budget has led to confusion and, now, this unacceptable budget proposal.

I would appreciate the opportunity to talk. I am out of state and can be reached at (253) 221-6757.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM
STATE AUDITOR

cc: The Honorable Kelli Linville, Chair, House Ways & Means Committee

