



March 25, 2008

An Open Letter to Governor Tim Pawlenty and Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

The undersigned organizations are deeply concerned about the Governor's proposal to reduce the Renters' Credit. These cuts will harm Minnesotans across the state including seniors, persons with disabilities, and other low- and moderate-income Minnesotans.

The Renters' Credit provides a reduction in property taxes to Minnesotans whose rent is high relative to their income. While renters do not pay property taxes directly, the Renters' Credit recognizes that owners of rental property pass on the cost of property taxes to renters in the form of higher rents.

- In 2005, more than 271,000 Minnesota households received this tax credit. 29% of these households included seniors and/or persons with severe disabilities.
- More than \$145 million was brought into local communities and businesses because of the Renters' Credit.

Under the Governor's proposal, the Renters' Credit would be cut by 21%. The average credit would be cut by \$119 and 11,200 taxpayers would lose eligibility for the Renters' Credit.

The Governor claims that a cut to the Renters' Credit is appropriate since property taxes were decreased in 2001 for most apartment owners. Renters did not benefit from this property tax reform; the savings have not been passed on to renters.

Even when the Renters' Credit is taken into account, rental property taxes remain one of the most regressive taxes in Minnesota.

At a time when the state faces an economic downturn and a significant lack of affordable housing, renters in Minnesota cannot afford a 21% cut in the Renters' Credit. Many Minnesotans use the Renters' Credit to meet basic needs such as delayed dental care, school clothes and supplies, car repairs, bills, and prescription drugs. Cutting the Renters' Credit harms Minnesota families. We need to stop asking our most vulnerable Minnesotans to bear much of the costs of balancing the state's budget.

We, the undersigned organizations, therefore oppose a cut to the Renters' Credit.

To join this sign-on letter in opposition to cuts to the Renters' Credit, please provide the above contact information and return to:

Nan Madden
Minnesota Budget Project
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
2314 University Ave W #20
St. Paul, MN 55114

For more information about the Renters' Credit Coalition, contact:
Nan Madden | Minnesota Budget Project | 2314 University Ave W Ste 20 | St. Paul, MN 55114
nan@mncn.org | 651-642-1904 ext. 230



Minnesota Renters' Credit Coalition

We, the undersigned organizations, oppose a cut to the Renters' Credit.

A Minnesota Without Poverty, St. Paul
AARP Minnesota, St. Paul
Accountability Minnesota, St. Paul
Affirmative Options Coalition, St. Paul
Alexandra House, Inc., Blaine
All Parks Alliance for Change, St. Paul
Anna Marie's Alliance, St. Cloud
Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project,
Minneapolis
BI-CAP, Bemidji
Chicano Latino Affairs Council, St. Paul
Chinese Social Service Center, Minneapolis
Chisago County Senior Center, North Branch
Churches United for the Homeless, Moorhead
Community Corner-Family Resource Center,
Brooklyn Center
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, St. Paul
Cornerstone, Bloomington
Damiano Center, Duluth
Duluth LISC, Duluth
ElderCircle, Grand Rapids
Elim Transitional Housing, Minneapolis
Families Moving Forward, Minneapolis
Family & Children's Service, Minneapolis
Family Housing Fund, Minneapolis
Family Service Center, Maplewood
 Fargo/Moorhead Coalition for Homeless
Persons, Inc., Moorhead
Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota, St. Paul
Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, St. Paul
Greater Twin Cities United Way 2-1-1, St. Paul
Growth & Justice, St. Paul
HOME Line, Minneapolis
Home of the Good Shepherd/Rose Center, St.
Paul
Housing Coalition of the St. Cloud Area, St.
Cloud
Human Development Center, Duluth
Hunger Solutions Minnesota, St. Paul
Integrated Community Solutions
Jewish Community Action, St. Paul
JOBS NOW Coalition, St. Paul
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, Minneapolis
KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc., Grand
Rapids
League of Women Voters Minnesota, St. Paul
Legal Services Advocacy Project, St. Paul
Listening House of St. Paul, Inc, St. Paul

Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in
Minnesota, St. Paul
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, St. Paul
Meeker County Emergency Food Shelf,
Litchfield
Mercies of God FGBC, St. Paul
Metropolitan Consortium of Community
Developers, Minneapolis
Midwest Minnesota Community Development
Corporation, Detroit Lakes
Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council,
Minneapolis
Minneapolis Urban League, Minneapolis
Minnesota AIDS Project, Minneapolis
Minnesota Chapter of the National Lawyers
Guild, Minneapolis
Minnesota Citizens for Tax Justice, St. Paul
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, St. Paul
Minnesota Community Action Partnership, St.
Paul
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, St. Paul
Minnesota Housing Partnership, St. Paul
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center,
Minneapolis
Minnesota NAHRO (National Association of
Housing and Redevelopment Officials),
Eagan
Minnesota Program Development, Duluth
Minnesota Public Interest Research Group,
Minneapolis
Minnesota Senior Federation, St. Paul
Minnesota Tenants Alliance, Minneapolis
Minnesota Tenants Union, Minneapolis
Minnesota Valley Action Council, Mankato
MSUM Student Senate, Moorhead
National Association of Social Workers-
Minnesota Chapter, St. Paul
Norman County Victim Assistance Program, Ada
Northern Connections, Perham
Office for Social Justice, Catholic Charities, St.
Paul
People Serving People, Minneapolis
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center,
Minneapolis
Powderhorn Phillips Cultural Wellness Center,
Minneapolis
Productive Alternatives, Fergus Falls
Project for Pride in Living (PPL), Minneapolis
Residents for Affordable Housing, Minneapolis

For more information about the Renters' Credit Coalition, contact:

Nan Madden | Minnesota Budget Project | 2314 University Ave W Ste 20 | St. Paul, MN 55114
nan@mncn.org | 651-642-1904 ext. 230

RESOURCE, Minneapolis
Restart Inc., Golden Valley
Rochester Area Family Y, Rochester
SHiFT, Inc., Minneapolis
Simpson Housing Services, Minneapolis
St. Louis Park Emergency Program (STEP), St.
Louis Park
Steele County Transitional Housing
The Arc of Minnesota, St. Paul
The City, Inc., Minneapolis
The League of Rural Voters, Minneapolis
The Milestone Group LLP, St Paul
The Salvation Army Harbor Light, Minneapolis
The Social Connexion, Moorhead
Therapeutic Services Agency, Pine City
Theresa Living Center/Caroline Family Services,
St. Paul

Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation,
St. Paul
United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local
789, South St Paul
United Way of Steele County, Owatonna
WE CARE Minnesota, St. Paul
West 7th Community Center, St. Paul
Willmar Area Food Shelf, Willmar
Women Achieving New Directions, Minneapolis
Women Planting Seeds, Minneapolis
Women's Rural Advocacy Programs, Granite
Falls
WomenVenture, St. Paul
Working Partnerships, Minneapolis
YWCA of Minneapolis, Minneapolis