

As promised, the Republicans rolled out our proposed budget cuts last week which totaled \$52.6 million. These cuts balance our State budget without reserve spending, which has been our goal since the beginning of the 2010 session. The detailed outline of proposed cuts can be found on my website at www.russelloolson.com.

Some groups may say they weren't given enough time to prepare for such drastic cuts and you may wonder why we didn't roll out these specific cuts earlier. The appropriations committee has met with each state government agency to hear their budget requests. Each agency must be heard and their individual requests evaluated. Only after all those "public hearings" are finished can we come back to you, the voters, the governor, and other legislators with a detailed plan.

The cuts proposed are most certainly going to hit a nerve with one group or another. To say the least, I would love not having to make any cuts. Our jobs as legislators would be easy if we never had to consider that one day the reserves and taxes would run out. However, we are charged with making real and difficult decisions and have put much thought into our proposal. I truly believe, and I think most agree, that we need to make these tough decisions to get government back to the essential services necessary to get our citizenry out of the worst economic times since the dirty thirties. We knew it would not be easy, but have developed a plan we feel best serves our state.

The decisions I make as your Senator must be proper, diligent and in the best interest of the people of District 8 and the state of South Dakota. I have never been as confident in my decisions as I am now. My confidence comes from talking to people in grocery store lines, awareness meetings and from my family. Both of my grandmothers and my great aunt have given me the best advice - stay the course and make the necessary cuts to our government growth and lead by an example our elected leaders in Washington D.C. should follow.

We all knew we needed \$32 to \$40 million to balance the budget without reserve spending and I am proud to be part of the only group who has brought a workable plan to the table.

Please pray for the men and women of the 211th serving our state and country.

Again, it is an honor to serve as your Senator. Please contact me at Sen.russelloolson@state.sd.us with any advice or concerns.

Respectfully,

Russell Olson
District 8 Senator