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2010 FINAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The 2010 Session of the Nebraska Legislature has adjourned sine die.

Overall it was a successful biennium. Taking a look at the numbers, a total of 1110 bills were introduced (681 in the first session and 429 in the second session). Of the 429 introduced this session, 196 bills were passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. An additional 55 bills were amended into other bills. In all, 101 priority bills were debated. The Governor vetoed two bills, one of which was overridden. There were 416 bills stalled in committee – including 80 in the Judiciary Committee alone.

This is the second year of the biennium. Any bill not passed this year is considered "dead" and will need to be reintroduced to be considered again next year. Unless otherwise indicated, all bills that were passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor go into effect three calendar months after the close of the session. That means that bills without a specific start date will become effective July 15, 2010. If the bill was passed with an emergency clause, the bill becomes effective on the date that the Governor signs the bill into law.

Unless a special session is called this year, this was the final legislative session for Senator Tim Gay of Papillion, Senator Arnie Stuthman of Platte Center, and Senator Tom White of Omaha. The 102nd Legislature will convene on January 5, 2011.

As always, we monitored a significant number of bills during the session on your behalf that we will summarize for you soon. In addition, we were successful this session in passing LB 933 the bill that cleaned up the Motor Vehicle Certificate of Title Act as it applies to certain manufactured homes. LB 756, a bill introduced by Senator John Wightman creating the Uniform Transfer on Death Act, was killed this year; however, the Senator intends to study the issue over the interim with the Nebraska State Bar Association. We will ask to be a part of the study. In addition, LB 1051, passed with an emergency clause, to change the fees and the timing of collection for abstractors in Nebraska.

You should be aware that, depending on April tax receipts, there may be a special session of the Legislature this summer or fall to cut the state budget again. March gross receipts were slightly above forecast which was the first glimmer of hope this year. Revenues have generally been below projections resulting in two rounds of budget cuts already this budget cycle. Next year will be a budget year. The expectation is that the state will have revenue shortfalls of between $600 million and $1 billion dollars.

During the interim, the Legislature will spend time studying issues of interest. There were 113 interim study resolutions introduced this year. In the coming weeks we will send a complete list of all interim study resolutions introduced highlighting those that may be of interest to you. As you know the Legislature generally starts to work on study resolutions in the summer and fall.

We will be sending you a final legislative summary in the next two weeks noting the outcome of bills of interest to you. We are happy to visit with you about any legislation that has passed or any questions you might have about the session. The interim is a good time also to visit about any ideas you may have about potential legislation that you may wish to propose for next year.

We are honored to represent you before the Nebraska Legislature and want you to know that we appreciate your faith and confidence in us.