

## Sen. Kari Dziedzic Statement

"The economic forecast released today is good news. The Minnesota economy continues to thrive, with positive recent statistics and encouraging outlooks for individuals and businesses. We have a surplus this biennium, a balanced budget going forward, and higher budget reserves than at any time in Minnesota history. We faced the tremendous downturn of the pandemic with resolve, and we have emerged from it with stability.

"Coming into this year, with a new Senate majority, Minnesotans told us they want us to get things done. We listened and we ended years of gridlock and delay to enact a balanced budget that will help improve the lives of Minnesotans for generations.

"And as that budget is implemented, Minnesotans will see the surplus returned to them in many ways that will not only put money in their pockets, but also increase economic security, and provide opportunities for them and their families.

"We've invested in housing, health care, and in our schools – the very things that will make a real difference in growing the middle class and creating an economy that works for everyone.

"We've made major investments in infrastructure that will provide good jobs all over the state. We've invested in child care to help families, businesses, and communities. And, Minnesotans have already felt the financial impact of free school meals, and thousands of students will soon benefit from free college tuition as they prepare to enter the workforce.

"But we also know our work is not done. Since the 2023 session ended, we have been out listening to Minnesotans as we prepare to get to work in 2024.

"In the coming weeks and months, the Senate DFL Caucus will be discussing priorities for the coming year, and we will continue to work with Governor Tim Walz, House Speaker Melissa Hortman, our colleagues, and our constituents on how we continue to move Minnesota forward."