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## **\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

### **Auditor Otto Releases 2010 Lobbying Report**

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**ST. PAUL (7/14/2011)** – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the 2010 Local Government Lobbying Services Report. It is a comprehensive report on the expenditures by local governments and their associations for lobbyists and lobbying services during calendar year 2010. The report is intended to inform the public and policymakers of the amount spent by local governments on lobbying services.

The operation and funding of local governments can be greatly affected by decisions made by the legislature. Therefore, those affected by these decisions often have representation at the Capitol during the legislative session. This report documents the level of expenditures made by local governments and their associations to perform this function.

**“Traditionally, lobbying expenses have been higher during the legislative budget session and lower during the shorter bonding session,”** said Auditor Otto. **“The year 2010 was a bonding session, and we saw a decrease of 7.1% in lobbying expenditures compared to 2009,”** said Otto. **“However, there has been an increase in lobbying expenses every year for the last 10 years except for 3 – 2002, 2006, and 2010, all bonding years. Two bonding years - 2004 and 2008 – saw an increase. In addition to 2010 being a bonding year, tightening budgets and the economy may have also been factors in this decrease in lobbying expenditures,”** Otto added.

Highlights from the report include:

- Local governments spent a total of \$8,247,993 on lobbying activities in 2010. This represents a **decrease** of \$631,617 or 7.1 percent over the amount spent on lobbying services in 2009.
- Seventy-seven local governments (1 fewer than in 2009) reported that they directly employed staff or hired contract lobbyists in 2010. These local governments spent a total of \$3,936,266 on staff and contract lobbyists. This was \$492,948, or 11.1 percent, **less than** in 2009.
- In addition to the \$4 million paid directly to staff and contract lobbyists, local governments paid dues of \$10,540,078 to local government associations that also represented their interests before the legislature. These associations spent \$4,311,727 on lobbyists and lobbying in 2010. This represents a **decrease** of 3.1 percent from 2009. Of the \$4.3 million spent on lobbyists and lobbying by these associations, \$3,995,169 was funded exclusively through dues. This represents a **decrease** of 8.7 percent from the \$4,376,419 in association dues that were spent on lobbying activities in 2009.

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**To view the complete report, which includes an executive summary, tables and graphs go to:**

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20110713.000>.

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*The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.*

*Rebecca Otto is Minnesota's 18th State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at [http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto\\_hires.jpg](http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto_hires.jpg). To learn more about State Auditor Otto, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bio>.*