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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

State Auditor Otto Welcomes New Communications Director

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ST. PAUL (07/17/2008) – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today announced the appointment of Jim Levi of Minneapolis as her new Communications Director. “I am thrilled to be bringing someone of Jim’s skills and experience to my leadership team,” Otto said.

Levi has had a diverse career in the communications field. He has won numerous awards for his writing, including two Clio Awards for his work with the Nickelodeon television network, and has written for local and national media outlets in Minnesota and elsewhere. Levi has taught writing at the University of Minnesota, St. Cloud State University and the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis. He served as Project Director for the statewide Community Video Minnesota project in 2003 and 2004. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Master’s in Communication Studies from the University of Iowa.

“I’m excited to bring someone of Jim’s caliber to the State Auditor’s Office,” Otto added. “The breadth of his work and expertise make him a terrific fit with our team.”

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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. To learn more about State Auditor Otto, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bio>.