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The Honorable John Arch
Speaker of the Legislature
2103 State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Speaker Arch,

The property tax crisis hurting every Nebraskan is getting worse by the day. To put it in context, it took the first 118 years of statehood for Nebraska to reach the first \$1 billion in total local property taxes collected, the next 18 years to reach the \$2 billion mark, 8 years to reach \$3 billion, 6 years to reach \$4 billion, and the next 5 years to hit the \$5 billion threshold. The graph below visualizes a problem that is not only out of control, but accelerating.

Historical Total Local Property Taxes Collected



Indeed, right now across Nebraska, property owners are receiving jaw-dropping valuation increases from their county assessors. Some are as high as 40%, further spiking the amount of hard-earned dollars local government is taking from its people. Nebraska is hurtling toward a status quo in which total property taxes will grow by **more than a million dollars per day**. Yet, Nebraskans received no

new property tax reform in the 2024 regular session, despite the best efforts of a committed majority of Senators working in partnership with my office, backed by a coalition of hundreds of thousands of hard-working people hoping for relief.

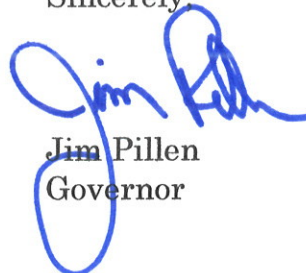
In my sine die address in April, I stated that I would call a special session this summer to facilitate another opportunity for us to meet Nebraskans' demand that their elected leaders fix this crisis now. I have traveled extensively across the state since the Legislature adjourned and have heard from a wide range of people. Their message is clear: stop this massive overall tax increase by fixing property taxes. I have also consulted with you and other legislative leaders regarding the optimal logistics for a special session. By this letter, I wish to provide further guidance regarding special session timing as a courtesy to the Legislature and so that Senators can prepare accordingly.

I intend to call the Legislature back into session beginning July 25, 2024, and intend for it to remain in session until it finishes its unfinished business. Consistent with Article IV, Section 8 of the Nebraska Constitution, a formal proclamation convening the Legislature will be issued prior to this date.

Separate from solving the property tax crisis, I further indicated in my sine die address that I will not hesitate to call a special session to complete other unfinished business upon receipt of a signal from the Legislature that there is support to resolve any time sensitive matter requiring attention this year. Prominent among our unsolved problems is Nebraska's three-decade-old allocation of our presidential electoral college votes for the presidency by congressional district instead of the state as a whole. I believe this practice is inconsistent with our constitutional founding, out of step with most of the rest of America, and signals disunity. I continue to await a signal that support exists within the Legislature to justify a special session to address the winner take all issue.

I am grateful for the partnership with you and so many others in the Legislature committed to doing the work of the people of Nebraska. Thank you for your leadership. Together, we can.

Sincerely,



Jim Pillen
Governor