



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

June 10, 2010

Tony Alpert  
Steering Committee Co-Chair  
SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium  
Director, Assessment and Accountability  
Oregon Department of Education  
255 Capitol Street Northeast  
Salem, Oregon 97310-0203

Judy Park  
Steering Committee Co-Chair  
SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium  
Utah State Office of Education  
250 East 500 South  
Post Office Box 144200  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4200

Dear Mr. Alpert and Ms. Park:

I write to inform you that Minnesota will not be joining the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium. The consortium agreement requires states to adopt the Common Core Mathematics Standards and the Common Core English Language Arts Standards. Minnesota is not willing to commit to taking that step at this point.

The final draft of the Common Core Mathematics Standards did not meet our expectations. An additional analysis comparing the Common Core Mathematics Standards with Minnesota's current mathematics standards will be conducted. This will result in a recommendation to our state Legislature for their consideration when they next meet in January 2011. In Minnesota, only the Legislature can authorize changes to our mathematics standards.

However, please know that Minnesota will be moving forward with the adoption of the Common Core English Language Arts standards under our regular, state-based adoption process this year.

Please feel free to contact Minnesota's Commissioner of Education, Alice Seagren, at [alice.seagren@state.mn.us](mailto:alice.seagren@state.mn.us) or 651-582-8204 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Pawlenty".

Tim Pawlenty  
Governor

cc: All Governors