February 20, 2014

The Honorable Jay Nixon

Governor of Missouri

201 West Capitol Avenue

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Governor Nixon:

Thank you for your letter of February 20, 2014, regarding the $44.1 million not included in the FY 2014 supplemental budget.

I am surprised that we are even discussing a supplemental bill because last year, for the third year in a row, your office told us that we would not need a supplemental budget for 2014. We asked specifically if you were sure of that and we were given assurances from your office no supplemental would be needed. Further, the Budget Committee last year appropriated the exact amount of money that you told us would be available for riverboat gaming. This was your estimate, not ours. It is also an estimate that your administration for riverboat gaming and lottery continues to believe will be available.

It is clear now that your office was incorrect regarding its assertion regarding the need for a supplemental budget and was incorrect with regard to its estimate of available money. Given these facts, I suggest that it is more reasonable for you to engage in rational conversation with House Budget Committee members instead of throwing incendiary press bombs from 10,000 feet. While I cannot speak for the entire Budget Committee, I believe that every single member of that Committee would be pleased to discuss with you, or your office, reasonable ways to work out the differences. If the concept of reasonable negotiation to settle budget problems is an approach attractive to you, I am sure the Chair and any other member of the Budget Committee would accommodate your schedule for such conversation.

Sincerely,

Chris Kelly