

Good morning. Thank you for coming.

I'm happy to sign this more-than-one billion dollar tax bill, and I'm happy about it for two reasons:

First of all, it's going to save Minnesotans a lot of money, and it's going to give them money back. I've always promised to give the money back if possible, and it's definitely possible this year.

We're all going to see a nice income tax cut and anyone who drives a car is going to like the reduction in license tab fees.

That 13th car payment is not going to be as painful anymore.

This bill also makes me happy because it's a great example of the tri-partisan government working together. And when that happens, it's the people who win.

BUT.....All that said, this bill does NOT get to the core problem of major tax reform. We have an overall goal of re-tooling the tax system so it makes more sense and is more user-friendly and we're going to get that done.

Today we're releasing the assessment of what citizens have told us we need to work on. Commissioner Smith and his staff have spent the past year or so finding out what people want changed.

And one thing that keeps coming up? Property tax reform. It has been one of my main issues, and now the people are saying it's also one of theirs.

Right now I'm going to bring Commissioner Smith up to tell you some more specifics about what people are saying we need to reform.