

**CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE**  
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

*P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 753-6780 • [www.governor.wa.gov](http://www.governor.wa.gov)*

March 24, 2012

Dear Friends,

The past several years have been challenging for Washington as we have worked to mitigate the effects of the greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression. In just the past several months, there have been three legislative sessions to address the budget. I had hoped that the special session I called in December would have yielded a solid head start on the hard decisions that were before us. Yet the Legislature continues to tackle tough budget decisions that remain unresolved despite our best efforts.

Notwithstanding the status of the budget, I think it is important that we reflect on the progress we have made for Washingtonians. I set out several goals for the legislative sessions. Key among them:

- Strengthen our education system to boost educational attainment for our students.
- Continue to build a well-educated workforce to strengthen Washington's economy and competitiveness in the global marketplace.
- Invest in training and research and development programs to foster innovation in our aerospace and technology clusters.
- Provide affordable, high-quality health insurance coverage to individuals and small businesses.
- Ensure equal rights to all our citizens.

Today, I want to share with you that we achieved these goals — with your help — during the regular legislative session. Please take a moment to review the attached document “Governor Gregoire’s 2012 Legislative Successes” to see all that we accomplished working together on behalf of the citizens of Washington. Thank you for joining me in these vital endeavors.

Sincerely,

/s/

Governor Chris Gregoire