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January 22, 2001

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

The New Year brings with it a new budget and an opportunity to provide Californians with the many benefits of a steadily growing economy.

As the new Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee, I am excited to begin the process of analyzing, writing and leading the budget process for the Assembly. The *Preliminary Review of the Governor's Proposed 2001-02 State Budget* kicks off this process by providing you with an analysis of the Governor's major budget proposals.

This budget year presents many challenges to the legislature including our state's energy crisis, finding new ways to improve our schools, and expanding health access for California's working families. I look forward to working with everyone to find practical solutions to these and other issues, while ensuring that we invest California taxpayers' money wisely for the generations that follow.

The Preliminary Review affirms my commitment to make the budget process more accessible, and I hope any comments or suggestions you may have on this document or the budget process are shared with me or my staff.

Sincerely,

**TONY CARDENAS**  
 Chairman