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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

State Auditor Otto Releases Lobbying Report

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ST. PAUL (5/5/2016) – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the 2015 Local Government Lobbying Services Report. It is a comprehensive report which shows the expenditures by local governments and their associations for lobbyists and lobbying for calendar year 2015. The report is intended to inform Minnesota citizens and policymakers on the amount spent by their local governments on lobbying services.

Highlights from the report include:

- Local governments spent a total of \$8,926,786 on lobbying activities in 2015. This represents an increase of \$687,746, or 8.3 percent, over the amount spent on lobbying services in 2014.
- In 2015, 101 local governments (ten more than in 2014) reported that they directly employed staff or hired contract lobbyists in 2015. These local governments spent a total of \$4,674,403 on staff and contract lobbyists. This was \$398,796, or 9.3 percent, more than in 2014.
- In addition to the \$4.7 million paid directly to staff and contract lobbyists, local governments paid dues of \$11,683,827 in 2015 to local government associations that also represented their interests before legislative, administrative, or other governmental bodies. These associations spent \$4,252,383 on lobbyists and lobbying in 2015, an increase of 7.3 percent over 2014. Of the \$4.3 million spent on lobbyists and lobbying by these associations, \$3,776,740 was funded exclusively through dues. This represents an increase of 8.7 percent over the \$3,474,095 in association dues that were spent on lobbying activities in 2014.

To view the complete report, which includes tables and graphs, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20160504.000>.

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The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by

reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.

Rebecca Otto is Minnesota's 18th State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto_hires.jpg. To learn more about State Auditor Otto, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bio>.