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### Daniels Tours Indiana Urging Budget Support

## Senate Approved Bill Wednesday

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**NEW ALBANY, Ind.** -- Indiana's governor was in southern Indiana Thursday urging Democrats to get onboard with a Senate-approved budget bill passed Wednesday.

This week, Gov. Mitch Daniels is touring the state as the General Assembly works on wrapping up its special session.

Daniels was all smiles when he arrived in New Albany, but it wasn't long before he got down to business.

"We have to have a tight budget," said Daniels.

The governor is urging a divided House of Representatives to approve the Senate bill passed Wednesday.

The GOP-led Senate approved a two-year, \$28.5 billion budget bill. The governor has agreed to sign off on the bill, saying it maintains at least \$1 billion in the state's reserves, increases education funding and, most importantly, does not raise taxes.

"To me, it's fundamental. At a time when people are having difficulty making ends meet, when families are really hurting, the worst thing we could do would be to raise taxes," Daniels said.

Getting the bill passed hasn't been easy. Daniels had a message for democratic House speaker Pat Bauer.

"I would request he simply let his people go, free them to vote for a very reasonable compromise that does protect taxpayers and preserves Indiana's status as one of the few states that's still in the black," Daniels said.

Daniels and Democratic Rep. Steven Stemler expressed their support for the Kentucky bill involving the Ohio River Bridges Project.

"We're thrilled with the legislation that the Kentucky Legislature passed yesterday. We have marrying

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language in our Indiana budget for the authority to be created," said Stemler.

Both sides agree it is possible to pass a budget by July 1, but it's going to take a bipartisan effort.

"It's going to take sides being willing to compromise. The level of compromise is pretty thin right now because we've been through the process for regular session and now into the special session," said Stemler.

"You've got a 2-to-1 majority for a Senate compromise. You've got all the members of our party prepared to vote for it. All you need is a handful of votes and they are there," said Daniels.

The governor said if the House and Senate cannot reach an agreement before July 1, he hopes they'll at least approve the Senate's contingency plan. That would allow Indiana to continue with current government spending levels rather than face a shutdown of state services.

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