



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 15, 2008

The Honorable James Metzen
President of the Senate
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
322 State Capitol Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Metzen:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 319, Senate File 3775, a bill establishing a new fee on paint sold in Minnesota.

County governments throughout Minnesota currently have well established programs to collect and dispose of paint and various other household hazardous waste products. I support these efforts to encourage consumer recycling and efforts by industry to make recycling easier for consumers. Minnesotans currently support paint recycling and disposal programs through their state and local taxes. I am vetoing this bill because it imposes a second government-imposed payment on Minnesota consumers for this same purpose.

While counties and associated household hazardous waste programs may be seeing increased burdens related to the collection and recycling of used paint, this legislation provides little assurance that taxpayers will see any relief if this bill were to become law.

Requiring Minnesota consumers to pay for both public and industry based programs results in a double burden on consumers for the same purpose. I appreciate that the conference committee members considered some of the arguments made by opponents of the bill on this particular issue and included language that remits excess funds collected by this fee to other household hazardous waste programs. However, if a new fee is warranted, the bill should provide a direct mechanism to reduce property tax collections now going to

Sen. Metzen/SF3775

Page 2

May 15, 2008

support paint recycling and disposal within household hazardous waste programs.

To the extent state anti-trust laws prevent manufacturers and retailers from acting in concert to establish such a program, rather than establish a new fee or assessment in legislation, the best approach is to simply provide manufacturers the exemptions from anti-trust regulations needed to develop and operate such a program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TP', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

Cc: Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Senator John Doll
Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Speaker of the House
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader
Representative Brita Sailer
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State