



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

May 19, 2018

Representative Kurt Daudt
Speaker of the House
State Office Building, Room 463
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Chapter 150, House File 390

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 150, House File 390, a bill relating to public safety.

Since the introduction of this bill, my position has been clear. I believe that blocking access to freeways and airports is a matter of public safety for everyone involved.

However, I do not support the broad transit provisions in this bill. The language does not provide clarity regarding the actual crimes, for which it creates stiffer penalties. It incorporates existing statutory language: "...an act that interferes with or obstructs, or tends to interfere with or obstruct (emphasis added), the operation of a transit vehicle is guilty of a (gross misdemeanor) crime."

I believe that the Statute's existing language: "tends to...." is unacceptably vague and subjective. I do not support applying that language to acts that would be classified as gross misdemeanors.

Current law gives law enforcement the authority and tools needed to protect public safety. Under existing law, violations are prosecuted as misdemeanors, "a crime for which a sentence of not more than 90 days or a fine or not more than \$1,000, or both, may be imposed."

Other crimes so charged include: disorderly conduct, thefts of less than \$500, first-time DWIs with readings below .20, 5th degree assault, and domestic assault. Several of those crimes involve threats to public safety (DWIs) and crimes of violence against innocent individuals (assault and domestic assault). Furthermore, other illegal acts committed by individuals during protests, such as an assault against a police officer, are properly classified by themselves as gross misdemeanors or more severe.