



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

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

May 16, 2009

The Honorable Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Kelliher:

I have signed into law, with a number of line-item vetoes, the Capital Investment bill, Chapter 93, House File 855.

Although this bill contains many projects that may have merit, I am disappointed the bill was finalized without being negotiated to conclusion with my administration. My letter to the conference committee expressed concerns regarding the size and scope of the bill. That letter also indicated an acceptable bill should focus on: (1) maintaining existing buildings rather than constructing new ones; (2) funding projects that leverage available federal matching dollars; and (3) remaining fiscally responsible. The bill did not meet those standards and line-item vetoes totaling \$85.16 million were necessary as a result.

I am grateful the bill doubled the flood mitigation amount upon my request. The bill also includes disaster assistance money for northwest Minnesota, Hugo and St. Charles. These are important items that need to be funded this year.

The line-item vetoes bring this bill into line with the expectations I described to the conference committee earlier. While many of the vetoed projects are meritorious, they should be considered next year as part of the larger, regular bonding bill.

Below is a summary of the line-item vetoes within this bill:

- Page 3, Lines 3.1-3.4: An appropriation of \$24,000,000 for the Bell Museum of Natural History.

- Page 4, Lines 4.1-4.7: An appropriation of \$11,000,000 for the Health and Science Center addition at Lake Superior Community and Technical College.
- Page 4, Lines 4.8-4.16: An appropriation of \$5,250,000 for Carpentry and Industrial Mechanical Technology and Shops at Mesabi Range Community and Technical College.
- Page 4, Lines 4.17-4.24: An appropriation of \$5,700,000 for Metropolitan State University Smart Classroom Center.
- Page 5, Lines 5.14-5.19: An appropriation of \$13,300,000 for North Hennepin Community College Center for Business and Technology.
- Pages 5-6, Lines 5.20-6.2: A Systemwide Initiatives appropriation of \$3,625,000 for classroom renovations at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.
- Pages 7-8, Lines 7.31-8.21: An appropriation of \$5,780,000 for Independent School District No. 38, Red Lake.
- Page 16, Lines 16.9-16.13: An appropriation of \$3,000,000 for Rail Service Improvement.
- Page 22, Lines 22.12-22.17: An appropriation of \$2,000,000 for Early Childhood Learning and Child Protection Facilities.
- Page 24, Lines 24.11-24.26: An appropriation of \$6,500,000 for Mankato-Civic Center Expansion.
- Pages 24-25, Lines 24.27-25.2: An appropriation of \$2,000,000 for Minneapolis-Shubert Performing Arts and Education Center.
- Page 25, Lines 25.16-25.29: An appropriation of \$3,000,000 for St. Cloud-Civic Center Expansion.

Speaker Kelliher/HF 855

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Please disregard any notations on pages 4 and 5, lines 4.25-5.8 of the bill. I have not vetoed this item.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Pawlenty', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

- cc: Senator James Metzen, President of the Senate
Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Senator Keith Langseth
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader
Representative Alice Hausman
Mr. Peter S. Watson, Secretary of the Senate (Legislative)
Mr. Albin Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State