

STATE OF MINNESOTA

SF 1842

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ST. PAUL 55155

RUDY PERPICH
GOVERNOR

April 26, 1984

Senator Jerome Hughes
President
Minnesota State Senate

Dear Senator Hughes:

I am today returning Senate File 1842 to the Senate unsigned. I cast this veto for several reasons.

First, during my campaign I talked of the importance of economic development and said it far outweighed the importance of gun control as an issue. I saw no need then for changes in gun laws, and I continue to hold that view. My action today will leave the laws as they now exist.

Second, if the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul tried to impose their regulations on my home community of Hibbing, I would be adamantly opposed. Senate File 1842 would impose unwanted new regulations on Minneapolis and St. Paul, and I oppose it just as adamantly. This is a diverse state with differing needs and desires in different regions. Those diversities must be respected.

Third, law enforcement leaders have urged a retention of current laws, and I respect their judgment. They are charged with maintaining the public safety and their advice is not to be readily ignored.

I want to express my respect for those who hold views different than those I now express. Supporters of this bill have provided learned and earnest advice to me and my staff. This has not been an easy decision, and I recognize the deeply-held views on both sides.

In conclusion, I do not support a ban on handguns (as in the Morton Grove, Illinois, situation). I have been assured by the mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul that they have no plans to enact such a ban. Further I will ask the mayors to work with their city councils to create uniform ordinances in these communities. This should help meet some of the objections raised by supporters of the bill.

Sincerely,

RUDY PERPICH
Governor

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER