



STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
130 STATE CAPITOL
SAINT PAUL 55155

ARNE H. CARLSON
GOVERNOR

3 June 1991

The Honorable Robert Vanasek
Speaker of the House
Minnesota House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have vetoed Chapter 320, House File 137/Senate File 4, a bill relating to elections which would prohibit gubernatorial candidate withdrawals within 16 days of a general election.

This measure proposes a solution where no real problem exists. Indeed, the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the 1990 gubernatorial race proved that current law works. The law works well for voters by guaranteeing that they will not be cut out of the process and it allows election officials time to respond to last minute changes.

By placing a 16-day limit on the replacement of candidates we would severely restrict the right of voters to have a choice. Why write anything into law that would take away the flexibility needed to deal with such situations?

This is not a partisan issue. My primary concern is that voters have a choice on the ballot between the two major parties. The challenge, therefore, is to clear up some areas of election law while preserving the integrity of the democratic process.

The Honorable Robert Vanasek
Speaker of the House
House File 137 Veto Message
3 June 1991
Page 2

I look forward to working with both political parties in the Legislature in an effort to find a balance between the orderly administration of elections and the flexibility essential to deal effectively with future unknowns.

Sincerely,



ARNE H. CARLSON
Governor

c: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Jerome Hughes, President of the Senate
Senator Duane Benson, Minority Leader
Senator Bill Luther, Senate Chief Author
Representative Terry Dempsey, Minority Leader
Representative Linda Scheid, House Chief Author
Mr. Patrick Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of State