



ARNE H. CARLSON
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
130 STATE CAPITOL
SAINT PAUL 55155

May 14, 1993

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

Dear Speaker Long:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 140, House File 1398, a bill relating to residential speed limits.

This bill would authorize local governmental units to impose 25 mph speed limits on stretches of residential roadways that are 1/4 mile or less in length. It is in direct conflict with current law requiring the Minnesota Department of Transportation to conduct engineering and traffic investigations prior to establishing speed limits other than the 55 mph rural and the 30 mph urban limits. It would be unwise to grant local government the discretion to circumvent sound engineering and traffic safety policy and procedure.

In addition, there is no data to correlate lower speeds with lower accident rates. In fact, Transportation Research Record No. 1281 reports that the highest accident rates and highest speed violation rates occur in statutory 25 mph zones. Accordingly, these zones should not be arbitrarily established without the thorough investigation that current law requires.


Finally, speed zoning can be an emotional issue that typically masks significant safety problems. The real safety problems can be overlooked because residents and local officials are pacified by lower speed limits. The consequence is that serious safety problems may never be adequately addressed.



The Honorable Dee Long
Veto Message Chapter 140
May 14, 1993
Page Two of Two

This bill is opposed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the League of Minnesota Cities, and the Institute of Transportation Engineers, all of whom have vested yet varied interests in this issue. I concur with their opposition.

Warmest Regards,



ARNE H. CARLSON
Governor

cc: Senator Allan Spear, President of the Senate
Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dean Johnson, Minority Leader
Representative Steve Sviggum, Minority Leader
Representative Geri Evans
Senator Steve Novak
Mr. Patrick Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of State