



STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
130 STATE CAPITOL
SAINT PAUL 55155

ARNE H. CARLSON
GOVERNOR

May 17, 1993

The Honorable Allan H. Spear
President of the Senate
G-27 Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Spear:

I have vetoed and am returning Resolution Number 4, Senate File 1232/House File 1519, relating to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Resolutions, while having no formal legal significance, can be important statements of policy and goals. The state constitution allows me to review resolutions in the same manner as bills which have passed the legislature. I am vetoing this resolution because I do not agree with its statements and feel it contradicts the position that our state must take on NAFTA.

NAFTA will be beneficial to the state and the country. Opening new markets for U.S. products represents the most important step we can make to foster economic growth. Lowering trade barriers makes sense for consumers, employers and employees and will translate into increased exports, economic growth and job creation for Minnesota. Passage of NAFTA is particularly important to our state because of our proximity to Canada.

The resolution is loaded with speculation of the possible consequences of NAFTA. I realize that there are concerns about environmental and labor issues. It will be important for these issues to be resolved to the satisfaction of Congress. Congress, the Bush administration and now the Clinton administration have been debating these issues for two years now. President Clinton and Congressman Gephardt are urging ratification with some negotiated modifications. This resolution would be contrary to those efforts.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arne H. Carlson".

ARNE H. CARLSON
Governor

The Honorable Allan Spear
Veto Message Resolution Number 4
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cc: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dean Johnson, Minority Leader
Representative Dee Long, Speaker of the House
Representative Steve Sviggum, Minority Leader
Senator Bill Luther
Representative Pat Beard
Mr. Patrick Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of State