

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura 130 State Capitol • 75 Constitution Avenue • Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 25, 1999

The Honorable Allan Spear President of the Senate 120 State Capitol Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

(Env.)

Dear President Spear:

It is my honor to inform you that I have received, approved, signed and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 231, House Senate File Number 2226, a bill appropriating money for environmental, natural resources and agricultural purposes, with the following exceptions:

Page 6, section 2, subdivision 2, lines 3-29 (University of Minnesota Center for Rural Development of Water Quality Cooperatives, \$200,000). Tension between this group and local units of government makes it doubtful that they will be able to create a model system that will be acceptable to the affected communities.

Page 10, section 5, subdivision 3, lines 54-58 (Ditch Assessment Payments, \$232,000). This appropriation circumvents a dispute currently in mediation, and undermines the Department of Natural Resource's authority to verify the benefit of county assessments. Language requiring the counties to complete the mediation process was excluded from the bill.

Page 17, section 5, subdivision 7, lines 23-24 and lines 35-36 (The second year of funding for the Fish and Game Division, \$1,565,000, and the second year of funding for the walleye stocking program, \$500,000). I vetoed the second year of funding of the Fish and Game Division, because I believe the legislature must come back in the 2000 session and adopt the fee increases which had been agreed to by the legislative leadership of both bodies and myself. My support for general fund increases in these activities was contingent upon passage of legislation increasing the fees.

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Page 20, section 8, lines 55-56 (Citizens Council on Voyageurs National Park, \$134,000). It does not appear that 20 years of continued funding for this Council has yielded any demonstrable results in resolving issues of local concern.

Page 43, section 16, subdivision 10 (d), lines 22-31 (Climate Variability and Change Impacts, \$350,000). I question any study that claims it will be useful over a fifty-year period. I am not sufficiently confident that this expenditure of funds will result in meaningful analysis and findings.

Page 47, section 16, subdivision 11(n), lines 3-13 (Hyland Lake Environmental Center, \$100,000). The role of the state in supporting capital requests for environmental learning centers is unclear and should be clarified prior to any implied commitment to this, or any other, environmental learning center.

Page 52, section 16, subdivision 13(n), lines 38-42 (Trout Stream Protection, \$1,200,000). This appears to be intended for one local project and other agency funds should be sufficient.

With this bill, as with many other pieces of legislation sent to me by the legislature this session, I have been forced to carefully scrutinize spending provisions and make difficult decisions regarding spending reductions in order to maintain a strong fiscal position for the State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura

Governor

Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader c: Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader Representative Steve Sviggum, Speaker of the House Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader Chief Senate Author(s) Chief House Author(s) Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate

Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House