



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 8, 2007

The Honorable James Metzen
President of the Senate
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
322 State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Statement of Item Vetoes, Chapter 57, Senate File 2096

Dear Senator Metzen:

It is my honor to inform you that I have received, approved, signed, and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State, Chapter 57, Senate File 2096, with the exception of line-item vetoes listed below.

I have exercised a line item veto of the following appropriations:

Page 17, lines 17.29 – 18.11: A \$150,000 appropriation, \$75,000 each year, in Chapter 57, Article 1, Section 4, for a shade-tree protection task force and grants. The DNR already works closely with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, other agencies, and private stakeholder groups to provide these services. Creation and funding of a new task force would add minimal value to ongoing efforts. In addition, the grants funded by this appropriation are not state-wide and would be limited to St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Duluth.

Page 19, lines 19.18 – 19.20: A \$10,000 appropriation in Chapter 57, Article 1, Section 4, for the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area Citizens Advisory Council. The Advisory Council funded by this appropriation is established in Article 1, Section 40, of this bill. However, the activities and duties described for the Advisory Council do not involve expenses or spending authority and there appears to be no justification for \$10,000 in funding.

Page 42, lines 42.23 – 42.34: A \$200,000 appropriation in Chapter 57, Article 1, Section 5, for a grant to the city of Gaylord for storm water and sewer reconstruction. Although this is an important water quality initiative, it is more appropriately funded in an upcoming capital improvements bill, either this year or in the traditional bonding year.

Senator James Metzen

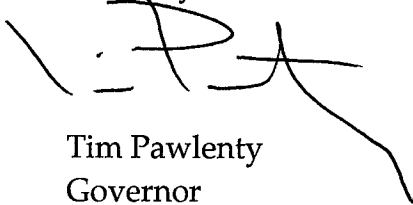
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Page 142, line 142.19: Chapter 57, Article 2, Section 3, page 142, appropriates "\$1,000,000 each year" to the Center for Rural Policy and Development at Minnesota State University at Mankato to make a grant to a non-profit organization. I am exercising an item veto to eliminate the words "each year" from the appropriation, thereby eliminating the \$1,000,000 appropriated for the second year. As a result, the \$1,000,000 appropriated for the first year of the biennium will remain in law and the \$1,000,000 for the second year of the biennium is vetoed and will not take effect. The \$1,000,000 appropriated in the first year is a reasonable amount to fund the purposes of this grant. This bill also provides \$2 million from the Renewable Development fund for financial assistance to these types of community wind projects.

Page 146, lines 146.10 – 146.25: A \$45,000 appropriation for fiscal year 2008 in Chapter 57, Article 2, Section 3, to fund a grant to Linden Hills Power and Light for preliminary engineering and design work. There are other potential avenues for this project to receive funding other than through a direct appropriation from the state general fund. As the proponents move forward, I encourage them to look at the wide array of available funds from other sources, such as the University of Minnesota's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment ("IREE") program or grants awarded by the NextGen board.

Sincerely,



Tim Pawlenty
Governor

Cc: Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Speaker of the House
Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Senator Ellen Anderson
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader
Representative Jean Wagenius
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State