



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

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

May 13, 2008

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

Dear President Metzen:

This letter is to clarify a portion of my veto message of May 12, 2008, regarding Chapter 301, Senate File 651, a bill banning flame retardants and certain other chemicals from products sold in Minnesota.

The veto message incorrectly stated that decabromodiphenyl ether (DECA) is used as a flame retardant in children's clothing. While DECA is used as a flame retardant in products such as furniture, consumer electronics, and commercial drapes, it is our understanding it is not used in children's clothing. We apologize for the error.

That misstatement does not alter the reasons for the veto. I vetoed the bill for two primary reasons: 1) Many studies regarding the impact of DECA do not support a ban; and 2) I believe our state agencies should review all available research and make a recommendation before moving forward with an outright ban.

My Administration is willing to work with the Legislature to craft legislation that will require the careful study of the science in this area and impose limitations on these compounds as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Pawlenty".

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

Senator James Metzen

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