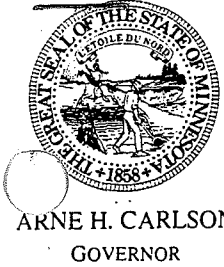


# STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
130 STATE CAPITOL  
SAINT PAUL 55155



May 24, 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 355, House File 31/Senate File 17, a bill purporting to guarantee gender balance.

This legislation is virtually identical to a bill I vetoed last year. This year's version does not address my concerns outlined in last year's veto message and the passage of time has only strengthened my feelings on this issue.

First, this is clearly a quota bill. I strongly believe that appointments must be based on merit. If we begin to carve out exceptions to merit, there is no end in sight to the number of specific groups or classes who could argue that they deserve their apportionment on the state's boards and commissions. I will continue to make competence the sole basis for all appointments.

Second, it is interesting to note that, once again, the legislature has exempted its own members from this requirement. This continues the trend of the legislature passing laws to cover everyone but the legislature.

Finally, our record of appointments is exemplary. When Lieutenant Governor Joanell Dyrstad and I took office in January 1991, we gave the people of Minnesota an executive team that represented one of the strongest in the state's history in its inclusion of women, both in numbers and caliber. The extremely talented group of women we appointed brought the state of Minnesota national attention when I was recognized by the National Women's Political Caucus for appointment of women to top-level cabinet positions.

The Honorable Dee Long  
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As of the beginning of 1993, 48 percent of our appointments to boards and commissions have been women. I am also proud of our record for appointing minorities, which represent 13 percent of the appointments. I intend to continue this pattern of drawing on all of Minnesota's human resources and talents.

Warmest regards,



**ARNE H. CARLSON**  
Governor

c: Senator Allan Spear, President of the Senate  
Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader  
Senator Dean Johnson, Minority Leader  
Representative Irv Anderson, Majority Leader  
Representative Steve Sviggum, Minority Leader  
Senator Sandy Pappas, Chief Author  
Representative Phyllis Kahn, Chief Author  
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate  
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House  
Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of State