May 19, 1997

The Honorable Phil Carruthers
Speaker of the House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Carruthers:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 165, House File 1755, a bill pertaining to housing redevelopment authorities and the cleanup of contaminated sites.

A provision of this bill directs the Department of Trade and Economic Development and the Metropolitan Council to designate a project site in St. Louis Park as an eligible, "high priority" site. Current law contains a detailed process for receipt and review of applications to make grants for purposes of contamination cleanup. The appropriate development authority has not made such an application. Accordingly, the Department of Trade and Economic Development is not in a position to judge the merit of this project or to designate it as a high priority cleanup site.

Funding of projects outside the existing competitive process undermines the objective and comprehensive process that is currently in place. Therefore, I cannot support this bill's usurpation of a process to which every other project must be subjected.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that more acceptable language regarding this issue, as well as the non-controversial HRA provisions, is included in different legislation and has the support of the aforementioned agencies and the authors of House File 1755.

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 Steve Sviggum, 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
   Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of State