



STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
130 STATE CAPITOL
SAINT PAUL 55155

ARNE H. CARLSON
GOVERNOR

May 30, 1997

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

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 202, Senate File 1905 (with the exception of page 4, article 1, section 6, line 10; page 6, article 1, section 12, subdivision 2, lines 6-8; page 12, article 1, section 14, lines 21-33; page 24, article 2, section 3, subdivision 3, lines 24-36).

The appropriation for the Attorney General is \$3.8 million over the administration's recommendations and particularly troublesome when you consider the enormous growth of the Office of the Attorney General since 1991. While other constitutional officers have maintained a relatively flat level of staffing, the Office of Attorney General has added 142 new full-time employees since 1991. As a May 9 letter from Chief of Staff Morrie Anderson to the conference committee outlined, such enormous growth is unnecessary, imprudent and not acceptable to this administration. This is particularly troubling since state agencies will be called upon to fund this growth. Therefore, I have vetoed the second year of the Attorney General's appropriation to guarantee that the legislature will revisit this issue in 1998.

The \$250,000 appropriation for the Department of Administration to coordinate a nongovernmental purchasing alliance for prescription drugs remains objectionable as stated several times previously, most recently in a letter to conference committee members. Virtually all individuals, as well as pharmacies, have access to purchasing pools for pharmaceutical products. This is not an appropriate role for government and would set a dangerous precedent in the private market. Also, the anticipated savings that would result from this approach are minimal to the individual and would fail to meet the stated needs for drug coverage for Minnesotans.

The \$455,000 appropriation for the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, including funding for my gubernatorial portrait, must be stricken because it violates the legislature's own policy. The legislature requested the Capitol Area Architectural Planning Board to establish guidelines relative to the beautification of the Capitol complex. Now the legislature is circumventing the very commands that it gave to the Board and is once again trying to

The Honorable Allan Spear
Page Two

undermine the Board's responsibilities. The fact is, the CAAP Board did direct guidelines and those guidelines ought to be respected by the legislature.

The provision which increases legislative leadership from three to five members is unwarranted. The new committee structure simply divides the work of one former committee chair into three new chairs. Taxpayers should not be responsible to pay for a new committee structure which accomplishes the same result as the previous one.

Warmest regards,



ARNE H. CARLSON
Governor

c: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dean Johnson, Minority Leader
Representative Phil Carruthers, Speaker of the House
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