

Warmest regards,
Arne H. Carlson, Governor

March 31, 1998

The Honorable Allan H. Spear
President of the Senate

Dear President Spear:

I have vetoed and am returning **Chapter 346, Senate File Number 2149**, a bill to establish a change of address system by the Secretary of State's Office.

This bill is similar to legislation I vetoed during the 1997 session. The concerns I held then hold true today: 1) Where a person receives their mail is not necessarily always where they reside and vote; 2) Establishing the residence of thousands of potential voters is a culmination of many factors that may not always be reflected by an automatic process for registration; and 3) The unintended outcome of this process may actually be more confusion on the part of the electorate. Equally as important is the philosophical objection raised by a number of legislators: Is it an individual's societal obligation to take the initiative to re-register or the government's? I would argue the former.

Significant changes to election law are too important to be entirely one-sided and lacking in bipartisanship. Even if my concerns were entirely satisfied, I could not support any changes to our election laws when only three Republican members in the House of Representatives, and relatively few in the Senate, supported the bill. Changes such as those proposed in this bill should have at least modest bipartisan support before becoming law. This position is consistent with my communications to the legislature over the last year.

Warmest regards,
Arne H. Carlson, Governor

Mr. Moe, R.D. moved that S.F. No. 2149 and the veto message thereon be laid on the table. The motion prevailed.