



IT'S A NEW DAY

Chapter 167

May 17, 1999

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

Dear President Spear:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter Number 167, Senate File Number 1609, a bill eliminating competitive bidding requirements at the municipal level for purchases made through a national purchasing alliance, and providing an exemption for governmental units to jointly contract in amounts estimated not to exceed \$25,000.

Earlier this session I vetoed a bill that increased the dollar limit allowed for uniform municipal contracts. While Chapter 167 may be perceived as an effort to streamline government, I have similar concerns with this bill. Chapter 167 would permit municipal purchases to be made at any dollar level through national municipal association purchasing alliances. Providing a mechanism for municipalities to evade the procurement policy objectives established by the Legislature will adversely affect the state's cooperative purchasing program and state mandates for environmentally-responsible purchasing. Economically disadvantaged small businesses and minority business owners will also be affected negatively by this bill.

Because this bill would affect the state's cooperative purchasing contracts, the Department of Correction's MNCORR program would suffer drastic reductions in its customer base. While MNCORR is on track to meet its legislative mandate to achieve self-sufficiency by 2003, this bill would hinder the department's progress and threaten the continuation of the entire program. These work programs serve a critical function in the secure and safe operation of our state prisons. We should not jeopardize this important program in the name of streamlining government.

For these reasons, I oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura  
Governor

**Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First... We Will Not Fail!**

**Office of Governor Jesse Ventura**

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