



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Constitution Avenue ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 25, 1999

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

(Bonding)

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

It is my honor to inform you that I have received, approved, signed and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 240, House File Number 2205, a bill relating to capital improvements, with the exception of the provisions listed on the attachment to this letter.

My administration is committed to capital budget reform principles that direct major capital budgets and bonding bills to be adopted in legislative sessions of even-numbered years, with consideration of emergency-only bonding bills in the odd-numbered years. For that reason, I instructed my agencies to make difficult budget decisions about living within available resources and proposed no bonding bill in 1999. I have concerns with several items in the 1999 bonding bill.

First, projects funded in the odd-numbered years must meet strict criteria as emergency items with no other available financing alternatives in order to be funded with bonds backed by statewide taxes. Projects that are less than emergencies should wait for consideration until the 2000 legislative session, when they can be reviewed and prioritized against competing requests.

Second, state agencies and political subdivisions should fund their projects to the fullest extent possible before requesting additional state assistance. For example, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) received an appropriation of \$43 million in the 1998 bonding bill for asset preservation purposes. Significant portions of this appropriation have not been encumbered or spent. The MnSCU board should utilize their 1998 appropriation for its highest and best use by reprioritizing projects based on urgency. Important, but less urgent, projects can be reconsidered during the 2000 capital budget process.

The Honorable Steve Sviggum

May 25, 1999

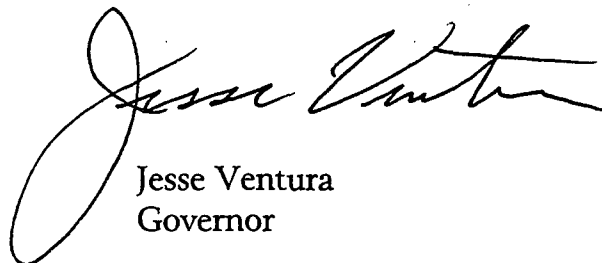
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Additionally, bonding projects should be prioritized according to statewide need. It is not appropriate to include items that should be funded at the local level when items of statewide importance are left out of the bill. Local self-reliance should be the primary method of funding local projects. Political subdivisions must accept the fact that the state is not responsible for and cannot fund all requests. This is not meant to diminish the value of local projects. It is a reminder, however, of the principle that each level of government bears responsibility for providing certain primary services to the public.

Finally, the bonding reauthorizations for the Labor Interpretive Center effectively represent new appropriations. I have vetoed those reauthorizations consistent with my other actions on this issue.

Based on these concerns, I cannot in good conscience allow certain projects to go forward at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse Ventura". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and end.

Jesse Ventura  
Governor

Attachment: list of line-item vetoes

- c: Senator Allan Spear, President of the Senate
- Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
- Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
- Representative Tom Pugh, 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. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State

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The following items in Chapter Number 240, House File Number 2205 have been line item vetoed:

Page 2, article 1, section 2, all subdivisions, lines 20-41  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, \$11,080,000

Page 4, article 1, section 7, all subdivisions, lines 5-24  
Board of Water and Soil Resources, \$2,375,000

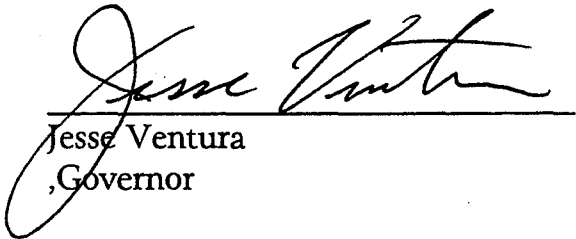
Page 5, article 1, section 8, subdivision 4, lines 1-15  
Administration, World War II Veterans Memorial, \$150,000

Page 5, article 1, section 9, subdivision 2, lines 20-48  
Transportation, Local Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation, \$10,000,000

Page 6, article 1, section 9, subdivision 4, lines 6-14  
Transportation, Transportation Revolving Fund, \$10,000,000

Page 8, article 1, section 14, lines 19-26  
Labor History Center, Bond Reauthorizations, \$613,453.29

Page 20, article 3, section 1, lines 1-25  
Minnesota Minerals 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund, \$20,000,000

  
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Jesse Ventura  
Governor

May 25, 1999  
Date