



IT'S A NEW DAY

Pseudorabies Veto Response

April 12, 1999

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

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 45, House File Number 414 (with the exception of page 2, section 2, lines 8-23). This letter also announces the first line item veto of my administration, and I am writing today to explain my rationale and to enlist the cooperation of the Legislature to work together to address the needs of Minnesota farmers with a strategic omnibus farm relief package.

There is no question that Minnesota must join the 35 states that have eradicated pseudorabies. Recognizing the plight of Minnesota's hog farmers and how the recent outbreak of pseudorabies makes a bad hog economy even worse, I support appropriating \$1,255,000 to the Board of Animal Health to provide reimbursement for pseudorabies vaccinations. It is my hope that this action will provide much needed help to Minnesota hog farmers as well as demonstrate to neighboring states that Minnesota is aggressively addressing this problem.

However, I have line item vetoed the \$245,000 appropriation to provide about 500 farmers with assistance in making application for spring operating loans. In my view, all such relief proposals belong in an omnibus bill, especially now that the legislative process has already taken too long to ensure adequate and timely financing application assistance to farmers for this planting season.

I understand the conferees are meeting to negotiate a \$70 million farm relief package. The Departments of Finance, Revenue and Agriculture stand ready to evaluate the proposals according to my budget principles to ensure that targeted relief assists those truly in need, and that other important programs, like loan assistance, can occur within that \$70 million ceiling. It remains my hope that this legislature can still embrace a multi-year program instead of spending all the relief in this next year, as most surely the farm crisis is far from over. However, my commitment to the \$70 million amount remains in good faith, and I look forward to signing a complete package of relief for

farmers in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

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

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

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