March 24, 2000

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

Dear Speaker Svigum:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter Number 277, House File Number 118, a bill relating to appointed commissioners who are required to serve as acting commissioners pending Senate approval and limited to temporary service of 18 months.

It is the Senate's constitutional responsibility to confirm commissioners appointed by the Governor. However, this bill is problematic because it presumes an acting commissioner would be dismissed if the Senate failed to fulfill its obligation to act on the appointment within the 18 month period of time. The confirmation of commissioners is an important role for the Senate. It is imperative to maintain a certain level of accountability and a clear expectation for all parties involved.

I look forward to working with the legislature to create a comprehensive piece of legislation that addresses the concerns of both
the legislative and executive branches of government on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

cc: 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
    Chief House Author
    Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
    Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
    Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State