



**For immediate release:
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Current News

The Honorable Don Samuelson
President of the Senate
120 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Policy

For Citizens

Dear President Samuelson:

Press Office

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 2, Senate File Number 10, a bill appropriating money for environment and agriculture, with the following exceptions:

The Administration

Page 14, section 5, subdivision 5, lines 53-57.

Lt. Governor

This \$25,000 per year appropriation to the city of Taylor's Falls for fire and rescue operations in support of Interstate State Park is an improper use of state funds that, if enacted, would set a poor precedent. There are 70 state park and recreation areas across the state that provide benefits to neighboring communities. No other local unit of government receives special funding in this bill for basic local services provided to state recreation facilities, and it is inappropriate to provide special treatment in this case. Existing payments-in-lieu of taxes and various forms of general-purpose state aid to local governments are the appropriate mechanisms to compensate local units of government for services to state facilities.

First Lady

Page 43, section 14, subdivision 6(b), lines 6-14.

A \$275,000 appropriation to the University of Minnesota to develop green infrastructure design strategies for public works projects.

Page 46, section 14, subdivision 10(a), lines 18-27.

A \$455,000 appropriation to the University of Minnesota for

"Uncommon Ground: An Educational Television Series."

I am vetoing these LCMR projects because of my frustration with the current LCMR process. Instead of developing a limited, strategic agenda to improve natural resources in Minnesota, the Commission has chosen to try to provide something for everyone. This funding cycle the Commission received 402 proposals totaling over \$424 million for available funding of approximately \$50 million. The Commission's Citizen Advisory Committee recommended a more focused agenda, which was not adopted. My administration provided input on funding principles and specific project recommendations that were also largely ignored. It is my hope that the administration can work with the Commission over the next year to develop a more focused and strategic approach to using the scarce resources available.

This bill also appropriates the Lottery In Lieu of Sales Tax funding that was dedicated to natural resources last session. In many cases, appropriations are made for ongoing operations, accompanied by rider language making this funding one-time. I am disappointed by this action, and believe that the Legislature has chosen not to honestly reflect the costs of these ongoing operations for future biennia.

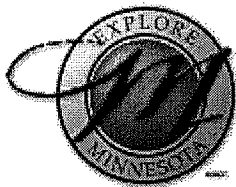
Finally, in the 2000 bonding bill, the Legislature appropriated \$5.963 million for construction of a biocontainment facility at the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. My budget for the Department of Agriculture requested the operating funds for this joint-use facility. This request was ignored. It is incomprehensible to me why the Legislature would appropriate construction funds and then fail to appropriate necessary operating funds.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

c: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Steve Sviggum, Speaker of the House
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Senator Leonard Price
Representative Mark Holsten
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate

Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

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