

May 29, 2004

The Honorable James P. Metzen
President of the Senate
322 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Metzen:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 291, Senate File 1859, a bill relating to state government, authorizing agency heads to contract with national purchasing organizations for goods.

My administration is always interested in implementing more cost-effective ways for state and local governments to purchase goods and services. I strongly favor the concept of using alliances of national government organizations to provide further purchasing leverage and options for state government. The rationale for this legislation is sound.

Unfortunately, I am advised the bill will likely cause a violation of existing contractual agreements thereby creating substantial legal and fiscal liabilities for the state. The bill is also drafted in a confusing manner. I am vetoing the bill as a result.

I encourage the authors to work with the Department of Administration to address the bill's flaws and develop initiatives that will save taxpayers money without creating legal liabilities.

Sincerely,

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

cc: Senator Dean Johnson, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Senate Minority Leader
Representative Steve Sviggum, Speaker of the House

Representative Matt Entenza, House Minority Leader

Senator Dallas Sams

Representative Laura Brod

Patrick Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate

Ed Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House

Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State