



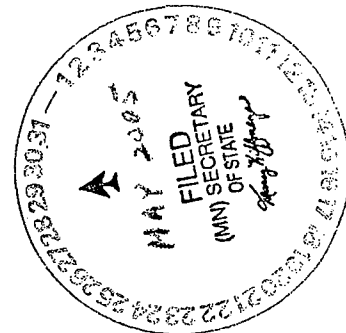
STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 27, 2005

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



Dear Senator Metzen:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 108, Senate File 877, a bill relating to the Minnesota Humanities Commission and establishing a Minnesota Poet Laureate.

In its title, the bill purports to "establish" a Minnesota Humanities Commission (the "Commission"). The bill does no such thing. It requires the Commission to submit a report to the Legislature and it recognizes the commission "may" do certain things which the Commission could presumably already do with or without the legislature's permission.

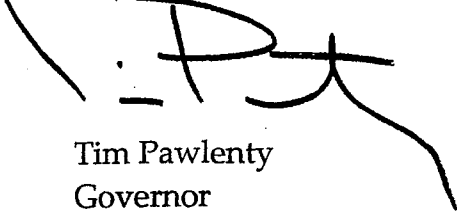
The Commission currently exists as a non-profit. If the Legislature was attempting to formally bestow additional status upon the Commission, this bill does not accomplish that goal. Notwithstanding these observations, I have no objection to the provisions of the bill relating to the Humanities Commission. I presume they can be re-passed as part of the Special Session's K-12 bill or some other appropriate bill. I would support such an effort.

I do, however, object to the creation of a State "Poet Laureate" position. While respectful and appreciative of the arts, I do not believe Minnesota needs an official state poet. We can benefit from the richness and the diversity of all of the poets in Minnesota and recognize and embrace their work as merit and circumstances warrant.

Even though we have a state "folklorist" (See, Minn. Stat. Sec. 138.85), I also have some concern this will lead to calls for other similar positions. We could see requests for a state mime, interpretive dancer, or potter.

So, I draw the line here and veto Chapter 108, Senate File 877.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Pawlenty', written over a horizontal line.

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
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State
Representative Barb Sykora
Senator LeRoy Stumpf