

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

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

May 3, 2007

The Honorable Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Speaker of the House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Anderson Kelliher:

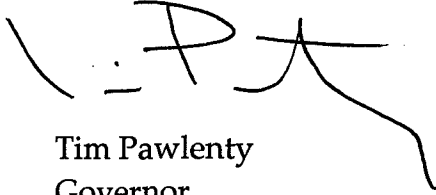
I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 31, House File 881, a bill that amends the Metropolitan Land Planning Act and eliminates the existing Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government.

In anticipation of the next round of local government comprehensive plan updates, the Metropolitan Council has been working with local governments to streamline planning process and make it more effective. Although it would be beneficial to have these modifications to the Metropolitan Land Planning Act enacted to assist in the planning process, I have vetoed Chapter 31 because it would eliminate the Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government. This provision was added to the bill by the Senate and was not part of the House's original legislation.

As you are aware, I supported the creation of the Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government when it was established. The Commission provides a necessary bipartisan means for the legislature to work with the Metropolitan Council and local governments on regional planning. This Commission also reviews the Metropolitan Council's budget, which includes millions of dollars of state appropriations. This Commission has not burdened the daily operations of the Metropolitan Council, but has provided reasonable degree of oversight to ensure that the appropriate balance is reached between regional and local needs.

I encourage the Legislature to pass the Metropolitan Council's agency initiative that amends the Metropolitan Land Planning Act, but without the provision eliminating the Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Pawlenty', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

cc: Senator James Metzen, President of the Senate
Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Senator Ann Rest
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader
Representative Debra Hilstrom
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State