May 21, 2009

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

Dear President Metzen:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 121, Senate File 477, a bill establishing a new fee on paint sold in Minnesota. The bill is similar to the paint fee bill I vetoed last year.

Legislators and stakeholders worked to address the concerns I raised in the 2008 veto message. However, this bill still places a double burden on consumers for an identical purpose. For example, it is estimated that local governments currently spend approximately $6 million per year for used paint collection and recycling. Since current local tax revenues are paying for this program, the legislation should include a clear and direct mechanism to reduce local tax collections that currently support local paint collection and recycling programs.

I would be willing to consider legislation that creates an industry-managed paint collection and recycling program as long as the program clearly demonstrates taxpayers will not be paying for the same thing twice.

Sincerely,

Tim Pawlenty  
Governor
cc:  Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Speaker of the House  
     Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader  
     Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader  
     Senator John Doll  
     Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader  
     Representative Brita Sailer  
     Mr. Peter S. Wattson, Secretary of the Senate (Legislative)  
     Mr. Albin Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives  
     Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State