May 7, 2009

The Honorable Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Kelliher:

Please be advised that I have received, approved, signed, and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State, Chapter 37, House File 2123, with the exception of the following line-item veto:

Page 8, lines 8.5 – 8.9: A $15,080,000 biennial appropriation from the Environmental Fund for surface water assessment and monitoring. My budget recommended that these important activities be funded from the Clean Water Fund, using proceeds from the new Constitutional Amendment. This is consistent with the recommendations of the Clean Water Council and other environmental stakeholder groups. The Clean Water Fund, rather than the Environmental Fund, is the most appropriate source of funding for water assessment and monitoring, especially when considering the long-term fiscal stability of the Environmental Fund. That fund will be nearly insolvent in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

Tim Pawlenty
Governor
cc:  Senator James Metzen, President of the Senate  
     Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader  
     Senator David Senjew, Minority Leader  
     Senator Sandy Rummel  
     Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader  
     Representative Jean Wagenius  
     Mr. Peter S. Wattson, Secretary of the Senate (Legislative)  
     Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives  
     Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State