May 25, 2011

The Honorable Kurt Zellers
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Zellers:

With this letter, I am vetoing and returning Chapter 73, House File 562, a bill regulating water and sewer charges by manufactured home parks and repealing the prohibition on air admittance valves.

Approximately 180,000 individuals reside in manufactured home parks throughout the state. The vast majority—an estimated 80 percent—are low- or very-low income. This bill puts residents at risk for an unjustified increase in the cost of residing there. As responsibility for buying water shifts from the park owner to the resident, rent should be renegotiated to reflect that it no longer buys water. I cannot support legislation that could drive up rent for some of the poorest Minnesotans, especially while high unemployment persists.

The bill also repeals the statutory ban on air admittance valves in plumbing systems, enacted in 2007. Air admittance valves are prohibited because of the danger they may fail and allow sewer gas to leak into the home. Until their reliability has proved itself over time in other states, repealing the ban in Minnesota is premature.

Sincerely,

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator Michelle L. Fischbach, President of the Senate
    Senator Amy T. Koch, Majority Leader
    Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Minority Leader
    Senator Warren Limmer
    Representative Paul Thissen, Minority Leader
    Representative Tim Sanders
    The Honorable Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State
    Mr. Cal R. Ludeman, Secretary of the Senate
    Mr. Albin A. Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives