The Honorable Michelle L. Fischbach  
President of the Senate  
226 State Capitol  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155  

Dear Madam President:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 158, Senate File 2014, which would alter the terms of the Metropolitan Council.

Current terms have been in place since major metropolitan government restructuring was enacted in 1994. At that time, the Legislature made a carefully considered decision to have Metropolitan Council members serve terms of office coterminous with that of the Governor. This process has worked well.

This legislation would stagger the terms of eight of the Metropolitan Council members. After a change in administrations, they would continue to serve for two more years. That arrangement would deny a new Governor the chance to select his or her entire Metropolitan Council until half-way through the first term.

Similar legislation was vetoed by then-Governor Pawlenty in 2008. I concur with his veto message that the Council’s current structure “was the result of reforms intended to increase Metropolitan Council accountability, and this bill reduces that accountability.”

Sincerely,

Mark Dayton  
Governor

cc: Senator David H. Senjem, Senate Majority Leader  
Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Senate Minority Leader  
Senator Benjamin Kruse  
Representative Kurt Zellers, Speaker of the House  
Representative Paul Thissen, House Minority Leader  
Representative Peggy Scott  
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