



STATE OF MINNESOTA

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ARNE H. CARLSON
GOVERNOR

24 May 1991

To Senate Hughes
The Honorable Robert Vanasek
Speaker of the House
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have vetoed and am returning to you Chapter 213, House File 929/Senate File 971, which extends the ban on Bovine Somatotropin (BST), a laboratory copy of a naturally occurring hormone used to increase milk production. If signed into law, Chapter 213 would allow the ban to continue until June 1992, or until the prohibition is lifted in our neighboring State of Wisconsin.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has determined BST is safe for commercial use. Counsel has advised us that a Minnesota ban after federal approval would be unconstitutional and, therefore, would likely be preempted.

More importantly, I believe any attempt by Minnesota to ban BST would interfere with interstate trade of milk and dairy products. Milk and milk products consumed in this State come from both Minnesota and non-Minnesota processors. Accordingly, prohibiting the use of BST in Minnesota would not stop the sale of milk from BST supplemented cows within our borders.

Minnesotans, along with Wisconsin residents, are very proud of the national recognition we have long received as the "dairy states." In recent years, however, our share of national milk production has declined, partly because we have been slower in adapting to new technologies and production methods. This moratorium would worsen our competitive position.

Published scientific research demonstrates that when BST is administered to cows, it works with natural biological functions to produce more milk. Milk produced by cows injected with BST is identical to other milk. No scientific evidence exists to suggest adverse human health effects from consuming milk from cows that have received supplemental BST.

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Taking into thoughtful consideration the assurances of public health protection and the competitive edge BST allows our farmers, it is critical that Minnesota not raise a barrier to the opportunity this technological tool offers.

Sincerely,



ARNE H. CARLSON
Governor

c: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Steven Morse, Senate Chief Author
Senator Jerome Hughes, President of the Senate
Senator Duane Benson, Senate Minority Leader
Representative Chuck Brown, House Chief Author
Representative Terry Dempsey, House Minority Leader
Mr. Patrick Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of State