

HF 1114

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SAINT PAUL 55155

April 10, 1992

The Honorable Dee Long
Speaker of the House of Representatives
The State of Minnesota

Dear Speaker Long:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 457, House File No. 1114/Senate File No. 768, the bill purporting to guarantee gender balance in state government.

The bill makes gender the dominant factor in making appointments by generally calling for one-half of the membership of any appointed board, commission or other agency to be filled by one gender. This is an inappropriate intrusion into the Executive branch functions and is simply bad government.

First, the bill fails to provide any mechanism for addressing existing gender imbalances over the numerous boards, commissions and councils covered by the bills. Absent the ability to correct the mistakes and obvious omissions of past administrations, no appointing authority can achieve the results desired under this bill.

Second, it appears to suggest that race is not worthy of legislative "quota" protection when it comes to appointments - illustrating the risk of carving out exceptions when straight-forward good policy should govern.

Third, Chapter 457 appears to suggest that gender balance is only important when the appointments are made by the Governor and the agency commissioners but fails to consider appointments made by legislative and judicial bodies.

When Lieutenant Governor Joannell Dyrstad and I took office in January 1991, we gave the people of Minnesota an executive team that represented one of the strongest in the state's history in its inclusion of women, both in numbers and caliber. The extremely talented group of women we appointed brought the state of Minnesota national attention when I was recognized by the National Women's Political Caucus for appointment of women to top-level cabinet positions. Nine appointees of my 24-member cabinet are women.

In the state of Minnesota there are more than 200 boards, commissions, and councils subject to the open appointments law. During a four-year period, there are approximately 2000 gubernatorial

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torial appointments to these boards and commissions. In making these 2000 appointments there are a number of critical factors to consider. Gender is certainly one of the important considerations, but by no means should it rise above all other protected group considerations.

The appointments I have made during my one and one-half year tenure as Governor clearly demonstrate my recognition that women are qualified and competent and should be appointed to government positions that allow the state to benefit from their contribution. I intend to continue this tradition of drawing on all of Minnesota's human resources.

Sincerely,

ARNE H. CARLSON
Governor

The preceding veto message was received from the Governor on Friday, April 10, 1992. No action was taken by the House.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SAINT PAUL 55155

April 14, 1992

The Honorable Joan Anderson Growe
Secretary of State
The State of Minnesota

Dear Secretary of State Growe:

It is my honor to inform you that I have allowed House File No. 2438 (Chapter 446) to become law without my signature.

H. F. No. 2438, relating to retirement; individual retirement account plan; expanding plan coverage to include certain higher education employees; changing the formula for compounding interest on deferred annuities of constitutional officers or commissioners.

With this correspondence, House File No. 2438 (Chapter 446) is submitted to you for your filing.

Warmest regards,

ARNE H. CARLSON
Governor

The Honorable
Speaker of the

The Honorable
President of the

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The Honorable
Speaker of the
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Dear Speaker

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