



STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
130 STATE CAPITOL
SAINT PAUL 55155

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ARNE H. CARLSON
GOVERNOR

May 16, 1997

The Honorable Phil Carruthers
Speaker of the House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Carruthers:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 163, House File 892, a bill which seeks to raise the minimum wage for employees of small Minnesota companies.

Since 1991, my administration has delivered a clear and unwavering position on the issue of the minimum wage. I will not accept changes to Minnesota's minimum wage law which do not conform to the federal law.

Conformity to federal law goes beyond Chapter 163 to include both a tip credit and an opportunity wage. I refuse to isolate the wage practices of Minnesota from those of our neighboring states. With the adoption of this language, Minnesota would be at an economic disadvantage with our neighbors. In fact, the lack of a tip credit would place Minnesota's mandated wage level as the highest in the region.

Minimum wage levels and policy are driven by national labor trends monitored by the federal government. Minnesota would be foolish to veer from such clear and well placed guidance.

Warmest regards,

ARNE H. CARLSON
Governor

- c: Senator Allan Spear, President of the Senate
- Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
- Senator Dean Johnson, Minority Leader
- Representative Steve Sviggum, Minority Leader
- Chief Senate Author(s)
- Chief House Author(s)
- Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
- Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
- Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of State