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Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

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Legislative Log 2000

Veto Message Chapter 479, HF2891

May 16, 2000

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

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

It is my honor to inform you that I have received, approved, signed and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 479, House File Number 2891, with the exception of page 8, article 1, section 5, lines 4 through 16.

While I have signed the bill into law, I am tremendously disappointed in its content. The Legislature has missed a major opportunity to enact a long-term financing package that would provide permanent funding increases for highway and transit infrastructure that is critical to Minnesota's future sustainable economic development. My administration's transportation plan would have accomplished these goals *and* provided meaningful motor vehicle registration tax reduction.

Instead, the legislature has squandered the opportunity by settling for \$400 million in one-time general fund highway funding and \$100 million in trunk highway bonding. At best, this will accelerate a few already-planned highway projects, and it largely ignores needed new investment in transit.

In addition, the bill contains problematic provisions relating to allowable uses for trunk highway funds. It is difficult to understand how appropriations made by the Legislature for many biennia could now be considered unconstitutional. Furthermore, while the bill shifts these appropriations to the general fund for FY 2001, the Legislature is ignoring the out-year impacts of this decision, and

not tracking these costs in FY 2002-03. Be advised that the Department of Finance's numbers will reflect these costs.

I have line item vetoed a \$750,000 appropriation to the commissioner of Trade and Economic Development for new travel information centers in the Minnesota River valley. We do not believe it is cost-effective to place three new travel information centers in such close proximity, and feel that any new tourism-related appropriations would be better spent improving actual tourism destinations like trails or parks.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155

Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

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