



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

April 5, 2012

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton".

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