



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

May 19, 2011

The Honorable Kurt Zellers  
Speaker of the House  
463 State Office Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Zellers:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 35, House File 1425, a bill adopting a legislative districting plan for use in 2012 and thereafter.

In my letter of April 25<sup>th</sup> to Representative Sarah Anderson, the Chief Author of this bill, I stated that I would not support a plan whose districts were drawn for the purpose of protecting or defeating incumbents. This bill violates that principle. It pairs five DFL senators, but only one Republican senator. It pairs 14 DFL representatives, but only six Republicans. In each pair, one incumbent must either move, not run for re-election, or be defeated. The districts in this bill are too partisan, drawn for the purpose of defeating a disproportionate number of Democrats.

My April 25<sup>th</sup> letter also made clear that, to earn my approval, the plan must be passed with strong bipartisan support, both in committee and on the floor. This bill was not. After all DFL amendments to the districting principles were defeated, both in committee and on the floor, the map was unveiled and adopted with little opportunity for public analysis and reaction, and the plan received no DFL votes in either the House or the Senate.

Legislative districts must endure for a decade. They must provide fair representation for voters of all political parties. A plan without bipartisan support is one I will not approve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton  
Governor

cc: Senator Michelle L. Fischbach, President of the Senate  
Senator Amy T. Koch, Majority Leader  
Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Minority Leader  
Senator Geoff Michel  
Representative Paul Thissen, Minority Leader  
Representative Sarah Anderson  
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