



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

116 Veterans Service Building ♦ 20 West 12th Street ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 23, 2015

The Honorable Kurt Daudt
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 79, House File 846, a bill related to state government, appropriating money for agriculture, environment and natural resources.

The bill contains vitally important statutory changes and funding for the avian influenza outbreak and buffer zones. I am deeply disappointed that these provisions are part of a larger bill that undermines decades of environmental protections, including:

- Excessive raids of the Closed Landfill Investment Fund and the metropolitan landfill contingency action trust account, despite a budget surplus.
- Requiring a three-week notice before discretionary environmental reviews can be ordered.
- Preventing the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) from adopting water quality standards by requiring lengthy, expensive and unnecessary steps in the rulemaking process.
- Requiring 18-24 months of rulemaking before adopting basic policies and guidelines.
- Granting amnesty to regulated parties that self-report violations of environmental regulations.
- Delaying enforcement of updated nutrient pollution permits for wastewater treatment facilities in the Red River watershed until 2025, unless approved by the U.S. EPA, North Dakota Department Health, and EPA Regions 5 & 8.
- Earmarks within the Remediation Fund that prevent the MPCA from honoring its commitments to clean up Superfund sites in several communities throughout the state.
- Inadequate funding that limits the Environmental Quality Board's ability to streamline the environmental review process.
- Eliminating the Citizens' Board of the MPCA.

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Minnesotans care deeply about our Great Outdoors, and expect that our regulatory agencies will have the authority needed to protect our natural resources. House File 846 weakens the state's authority and threatens our future generations' rights to clean water, land and air.

Therefore, I am vetoing this bill. I will insist the bill's language regarding buffer zones and avian influenza be included in the legislation emanating from the upcoming Special Session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator Sandra L. Pappas, President of the Senate
Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Senate Majority Leader
Senator David W. Hann, Senate Minority Leader
Senator David Tomassoni
Representative Paul Thissen, House Minority Leader
Representative Denny McNamara
The Honorable Steve Simon, Secretary of State
Ms. JoAnne Zoff, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Patrick Murphy, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Ms. Michele Timmons, Revisor of Statutes