



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Warren Limmer
President Pro Tem of the Senate
Room 3221, Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Restructuring provision and the elimination of the Transportation Advisory Board.
Chapter 196, SF 2809

Dear Senator Limmer:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 196, SF 2809, a bill that would restructure the Metropolitan Council and eliminate the Transportation Advisory Board.

The proposed governance change in this bill does not create a stable and accountable Metropolitan Council for the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Region. A nearly identical Council restructuring provision was passed in the omnibus transportation bill that I vetoed in 2017. In my veto letter, I stated that while I appreciated the Legislature's interest in governance reform, my concurrence required a proposal that could be supported by all of the affected counties and most other local governments. SF 2809 fails to meet that standard.

I have heard directly from local officials throughout the metropolitan region, who express strong opposition to SF 2809. They are deeply concerned that the drastic governance redesign proposed in this bill would place some in dual offices with inherent conflicts of interest. Furthermore, they fear that having such a large Council with so many parochial loyalties would impede the ability to create regional policies, to the detriment of the entire region.

The Council was created by the Legislature over four decades ago to address issues that are too large for any one local government to resolve by itself, and to position this metropolitan region to better compete against other, more fragmented regions across the country. While some legislators and local elected officials may disagree with the present governance structure, the Council has overall benefited citizens and businesses in this region and the state.

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The responsibilities of the Metropolitan Council go far beyond operating as a Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Council operates the region's transit system and wastewater enterprise, administers land planning laws, and distributes grants to municipalities, among numerous other duties. The Legislature has entrusted those responsibilities to the Council over the past fifty years in order to forge cohesive regional partnerships among increasingly diverse and disparate entities. I believe the Council has largely executed those duties responsibly and successfully.

I urge the Legislature to recognize the unique role of the Metropolitan Council and the enormous scope and complexity of its responsibilities, when crafting any future governance change proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator Paul E. Gazelka, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Senate Minority Leader
Senator Eric R. Pratt, Chief Senate Author
Representative Kurt Daudt, Speaker of the House
Representative Melissa Hortman, House Minority Leader
Representative Tony Albright, Chief House Author
The Honorable Steve Simon, Secretary of State
Mr. Cal R. Ludeman, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Patrick Murphy, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Paul Marinac, Revisor of Statutes