



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

May 14, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Please be advised that I have received, signed, and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State, Chapter 294, House File 2690.

I have signed H.F. 2690, despite my serious reservations about the Legislature's reallocation of LGA funding. Since relatively little additional money is added, the bill would create many "winners" (i.e., cities which would receive more aid than was allocated under the LGA formula), but also some very serious "losers," who would receive considerably less money than under current law. I am left wondering whether those consequences were realized by all legislators when they voted on the bill.

Despite my concerns, I am persuaded to sign the bill because of the \$4.1 million of property tax relief it provides to homeowners, who experience increases greater than 12%. To be clear, those drastic property tax increases are due to the legislative majority's ill-advised elimination of the Homestead Market Value Credit and reductions in Local Government Aid last year. As a result, many more Minnesotans will be burdened with significantly higher property taxes.

While this program aids only those homeowners affected most severely, and only for one year despite permanent property tax increases, it is virtually the only aid this Legislature has provided them in this session. It, therefore, requires my support.

Sincerely,

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator Michelle L. Fischbach, President of the Senate
Senator David H. Senjem, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Senate Minority Leader
Senator Julianne Ortman
Representative Paul Thissen, House Minority Leader
Representative Greg Davids
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
Ms. Michele Timmons, Revisor of Statutes