



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

May 25, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

With this letter, I am vetoing and returning Chapter 47, House File 460, a bill forbidding the State Building Code, the State Fire Code, or political subdivisions from requiring the installation of anti-fire sprinklers in a new or existing single-family home.

This requirement is part of the International Residential Building Code, which will soon be considered for adoption in Minnesota. Any objections to such a policy are best considered through the regular code adoption process, allowing adequate notice and time for fact gathering and a public hearing.

Evidence supports the use of sprinklers in promoting the safety of home residents and their property. Further, the concerns brought forward by fire safety professionals need to be addressed. They cite the fact that newly built homes burn more quickly and that more of their fire fighters are being injured when floors collapse during fires. With sprinkler systems in place, fires can be more easily contained, resulting in fewer injuries. I simply do not see how we can further jeopardize the lives of the individuals whose mission is to protect the public and who risk their lives on a daily basis.

For these reasons, I have vetoed this bill.

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 Warren Limmer
Representative Paul Thissen, Minority Leader
Representative Joyce Peppin
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

Voice: (651) 201-3400 or (800) 657-3717
Website: <http://governor.state.mn.us>

Fax: (651) 797-1850

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Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
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Dear Speaker Zellers:

With this letter, I am vetoing and returning Chapter 73, House File 562, a bill regulating water and sewer charges by manufactured home parks and repealing the prohibition on air admittance valves.

Approximately 180,000 individuals reside in manufactured home parks throughout the state. The vast majority—an estimated 80 percent—are low- or very-low income. This bill puts residents at risk for an unjustified increase in the cost of residing there. As responsibility for buying water shifts from the park owner to the resident, rent should be renegotiated to reflect that it no longer buys water. I cannot support legislation that could drive up rent for some of the poorest Minnesotans, especially while high unemployment persists.

The bill also repeals the statutory ban on air admittance valves in plumbing systems, enacted in 2007. Air admittance valves are prohibited because of the danger they may fail and allow sewer gas to leak into the home. Until their reliability has proved itself over time in other states, repealing the ban in Minnesota is premature.

Sincerely,

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 Warren Limmer
Representative Paul Thissen, Minority Leader
Representative Tim Sanders
The Honorable Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State
Mr. Cal R. Ludeman, Secretary of the Senate
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