

A BETTER JOBS & ENERGY BILL

On May 23, 2015, [Governor Mark Dayton vetoed the Jobs and Energy Bill](#). Instead of supporting job creation, consumer protection efforts, and sound energy policy, House Republicans attempted to undermine progress made during the previous decade. By standing up to Republicans, Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislatures have worked to alleviate many of the greatest deficiencies in this bill, including efforts to undermine nation-leading renewable energy policies and essential consumer protections.

Veto Reason	Description	A Better Outcome
Not Enough Funding for Rural Broadband Infrastructure Development	In 2014, Governor Dayton and the DFL Legislature invested \$20 million in rural broadband. To build on this progress, Governor Dayton requested \$30 million this year to continue this critical investment in Greater Minnesota. Instead, House Republicans only provided \$10.6 million, while earmarking \$2 million for a single project.	Even after Governor Dayton vetoed the bill, House Republicans refused to provide more funding for rural broadband infrastructure grants. Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislature successfully fought to remove earmarks from the program in order to keep the broadband funds competitive for all Greater Minnesota communities.
No Funding for Housing and Job Opportunities for Minnesotans with Disabilities	Instead of increasing housing and employment opportunities for Minnesotans with disabilities and living with mental illness, House Republicans undermined these efforts. This year, House Republicans failed to fund initiatives at the Department of Employment and Economic Development and Minnesota Housing Finance to provide people with disabilities and mental illness opportunities to live and work in the community. They also denied funding to prevent Minnesotans with mental illness from becoming homeless.	Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislature fought back, securing \$5 million for housing and employment initiatives for disabled Minnesotans and people with mental illness. The new funding also will help Minnesotans with disabilities find and maintain employment, and help Minnesotans with mental illness from becoming homeless.
No Funding for Health Care Rate Review Staff at the Commerce Department	The Commerce Department is responsible for ensuring that health insurance companies offer fair rates to Minnesota consumers. Despite this requirement, House Republicans attempted to undermine this consumer protection by eliminating funding and cutting staff.	Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislature fought back, securing \$1.284 million for health insurance rate review staff at the Commerce Department. This will ensure that all health insurance rates in Minnesota are subject to an adequate and rigorous review by state regulators.
No Funding for Health Care Investigators at the Commerce Department	Commerce Department investigators look out for the best interests of Minnesota consumers – by working to ensure that insurance providers comply with state law, and do not unnecessarily delay or deny insurance claims. In the original bill, the House Republicans failed to fund this important program.	Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislature fought back, restoring \$558,000 in funding for health insurance investigators to better protect Minnesota consumers from unfair insurance practices.

Not Enough Funding for the Department of Commerce	The Legislature underfunded the Commerce Department, which would have hamstrung the agency’s consumer protection efforts.	Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislature secured some of the funding the House Republicans failed to provide. The agency will receive an additional \$287,000 in the revised bill to help ensure the agency is able to carry out its critical regulatory functions on behalf of consumers.
Not Enough Funding for the Bureau of Mediation Services	The Legislature failed to provide the Bureau of Mediation Services enough funding to keep up with the cost of inflation.	The Legislature agreed to provide the agency a 1.8 percent operating budget increase to make sure the agency is able to continue resolving employer-employee disputes in a timely, productive manner.
Not Enough Funding for the Workers’ Compensation Court of Appeals	The Legislature failed to provide the Workers’ Compensation Court of Appeals enough funding to keep up with the cost of inflation.	The Legislature agreed to provide the court a 1.8 percent operating budget increase to ensure that the court is able to handle its docket effectively.

Governor Dayton Will Keep Fighting

Governor Dayton will continue fighting for the following priorities – which would correct deficiencies in the Jobs and Energy Bill that Republicans refused to correct, and make additional key investments in consumer protection and clean energy policy.

- **Protecting Incentives for Solar Energy (Net Metering)** – This session, House Republicans pushed to undermine Minnesota’s innovative renewable energy policies by changing the state’s Net Metering Policy, which dates back to 1983. Net metering works by requiring energy utilities to pay you a fair market price for electricity generated on home solar panels or wind turbines. The Republican changes will remove incentives for the use of wind and solar power, and create unreasonable barriers to future progress. Governor Dayton will continue to advocate for a policy that allows Minnesotans to access clean, affordable, and reliable energy.
- **North Dakota’s Lawsuit against Minnesota** – In 2007, Minnesota passed the bipartisan Next Generation Energy Act, which prohibits utilities serving Minnesota from importing additional power unless the additional carbon dioxide emissions are offset. North Dakota sued Minnesota on behalf of its heavy polluting coal energy producers, who also are helping to fund the lawsuit. This year, House Republicans aided North Dakota’s polluters by failing to allocate funding for the lawsuit. Governor Dayton will continue to uphold and defend Minnesota’s clean air law.