



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

April 27, 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:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 245, House File 1974, a bill relating to collective bargaining.

The Legislature is well aware that I have opposed, and will continue to oppose, unilateral changes to the collective bargaining process. This bill undermines contracts, which are collectively bargained by employees' elected representatives and the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget (MMB).

The bill's authors argued that the current contract negotiating parameters outlined by law give union employees an advantage in negotiations, as circumstances might arise such that not negotiating a new contract might be more beneficial to them. The authors did not acknowledge, however, that the opposite circumstances could also exist.

Furthermore, MMB would have significant timeline challenges negotiating and receiving unions' approval of a negotiated contract by June 30th (when contracts expire), since legislatures usually don't finalize a biennial budget until mid to late May. If management wanted a benefit to expire at a certain time, that could be, and often times is, negotiated under the current process. Under this bill, various employees (even within the same agency) would be treated differently based upon job classification as well as step/lane dates.

Finally, I would point out that the existing contract's benefits, which were the focus of both committee and floor debates, were negotiated by the previous administration and then ratified by the Legislature.

Again, I am vetoing this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton".

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 Mike Parry, Senate author
Representative Paul Thissen, House Minority Leader
Representative Steve Drazkowski, House author
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