



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

May 19, 2011

The Honorable Kurt Zellers
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Zellers:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 35, House File 1425, a bill adopting a legislative districting plan for use in 2012 and thereafter.

In my letter of April 25th to Representative Sarah Anderson, the Chief Author of this bill, I stated that I would not support a plan whose districts were drawn for the purpose of protecting or defeating incumbents. This bill violates that principle. It pairs five DFL senators, but only one Republican senator. It pairs 14 DFL representatives, but only six Republicans. In each pair, one incumbent must either move, not run for re-election, or be defeated. The districts in this bill are too partisan, drawn for the purpose of defeating a disproportionate number of Democrats.

My April 25th letter also made clear that, to earn my approval, the plan must be passed with strong bipartisan support, both in committee and on the floor. This bill was not. After all DFL amendments to the districting principles were defeated, both in committee and on the floor, the map was unveiled and adopted with little opportunity for public analysis and reaction, and the plan received no DFL votes in either the House or the Senate.

Legislative districts must endure for a decade. They must provide fair representation for voters of all political parties. A plan without bipartisan support is one I will not approve.

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. Bakke, Minority Leader
Senator Geoff Michel
Representative Paul Thissen, Minority Leader
Representative Sarah Anderson
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



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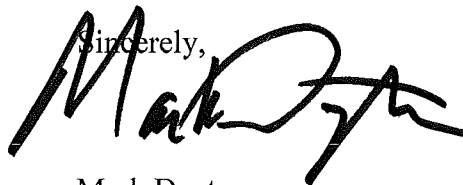
Dear Speaker Zellers:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 36, House File 1426, a bill adopting a congressional districting plan for use in 2012 and thereafter.

In my letter of April 25th to Representative Sarah Anderson, the Chief Author of this bill, I stated that I would not support a plan whose districts were drawn for the purpose of protecting or defeating incumbents. This bill violates that principle. It creates safe seats for six incumbents, while the First District has been drawn for the purpose of defeating the incumbent.

My April 25th letter also made clear that, to earn my approval, the plan must be passed with strong bipartisan support, both in committee and on the floor. This bill was not. After all DFL amendments to the districting principles were defeated, both in committee and on the floor, the map was unveiled and adopted with little opportunity for public analysis and reaction, and the plan received no DFL votes in either the House or the Senate.

Congressional districts must endure for a decade. They must provide fair representation for voters of all political parties. A plan without bipartisan support is one I will not approve.

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 Geoff Michel
Representative Paul Thissen, Minority Leader
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