

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

May 24, 2011

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and
Members of the Legislature
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Legislature:

I am returning LB 200 and LB 200A without my signature and with my objections.

LB 200 would provide \$150,000 in each year of the next biennium to increase access to healthy foods in low-income and high-poverty areas.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), there are already nineteen federal programs currently available to support the development of projects that address access to healthy foods. Examples of assistance currently available include \$10 million through the Farmers Market Promotion Program and \$16 million through the Community Economic Development program. The Nebraska Cooperative Development Center also has announced the availability of grants to develop new retail food cooperatives in rural areas.

I support efforts to make healthy food more available; however, the financing provided in LB 200 duplicates assistance currently available through federal and other sources to support the development of sustainable healthy food programs.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to sustain my veto of LB 200 and LB 200A.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Dave Heineman
Governor