

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SAINT PAUL 55155

May 19, 2011

The Honorable Kurt Zellers
Speaker of the House of Representatives
The State of Minnesota

Dear Speaker Zellers:

I have vetoed and am returning H. F. No. 1426, Chapter No. 36, 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