



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

116 Veterans Service Building ♦ 20 West 12th Street ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 31, 2016

The Honorable Sandra L. Pappas
President of the Senate
Room 3205, Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Madam President:

I have received, approved, signed and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State Chapter 186, Senate File 2963, the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota's Resources appropriations bill, with the exception of the line-item vetoes listed below:

- Pages 8-9, lines 8.30-9.2: "Aggregate Mapping. \$1,500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to map the extent and quality of aggregate resources in counties that have not previously been mapped. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2019, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered."
- Page 9, lines 9.3-9.23: "Pineland Sands Land and Water Study. \$1,500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to study the impact of changes in land use from forest land to irrigated agriculture in the Pineland Sands aquifer along the Crow Wing River. The commissioner must notify the public about the study and hold an open house in the study area to inform the community on potential impacts to surface water and groundwater in the area. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2021 and is not subject to Minnesota Statutes, sections 116P.05, subdivision 2, paragraph (b), and 116P.09, subdivision 4. The commissioner must submit or present a status update on the study to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the environment and natural resources by January 15, 2017."
- Pages 9-10, lines 9.24-10.3: "Natural Resources Research Institute. \$1,100,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota for academic and applied research through MnDRIVE at the Natural Resources Research Institute for projects that include, but are not limited to, the creation of a portfolio of waterborne sulfate reduction technologies and the development of technologies for current and emerging environmental and natural resources opportunities. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2018, and is not subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.05, subdivision 2."

- Page 22, lines 22.3-22.8: “Wildlife Science Center. \$500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Wildlife Science Center to provide environmental education programs using ambassador wild animals.”
- Pages 30-31, lines 30.30-31.21: “Pollinator Highway Demonstration Projects. \$2,200,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of transportation to restore and enhance wildlife habitat along trunk highways, including: marked Interstate Highway 35, one north and one south of the metropolitan area; marked Interstate Highway 90; and two locations along marked Interstate Highway 94. Of this amount, up to \$25,000 may be used to monitor and study the effects of different levels of native plant diversity on roadside pollinators and the timing of mowing on pollinator abundance and diversity. The commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over transportation and environment and natural resources by January 15, 2017, and submit or present to the chairs a follow-up status report by January 15, 2020. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2022, and must include a five-year restoration process. This appropriation is not subject to Minnesota Statutes, sections 116P.05, subdivision 2, paragraph (b), and 116P.09, subdivision 4.”
- Page 35, lines 35.3-35.12: “State Park and Trail Enhancement. \$1,228,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for enhancement of state parks and trails as follows: \$614,000 is for enhancement of state parks and \$614,000 is for enhancement of state trails. This appropriation is not subject to Minnesota Statutes, sections 116P.05, subdivision 2, paragraph (b), and 116P.09, subdivision 4.”
- Page 35, lines 35.13-35.22: “Douglas County Regional Park. \$400,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Douglas County for park and trail planning, development, or acquisition for a regional park. The grant must be matched by other state or nonstate sources. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2019, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.”

These line-item vetoes do not reflect my lack of support for these projects; rather, they underscore my conviction that the Legislature must work with its Citizen Councils, not against them.

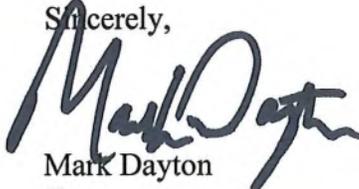
I am deeply disappointed that the House of Representatives chose to either completely omit or reduce appropriations for 23 projects that were recommended by the LCCMR Board. This action seriously undermines the integrity of a process that includes citizens who volunteer hundreds of hours each year reviewing and recommending projects for funding.

While funding was restored partially or in total for some of these projects during the conference committee negotiations, a total of 15 LCCMR-recommended projects were omitted or reduced in the final conference committee report.

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I regret that my actions cannot restore funding for these organizations, agencies and institutions, who, through no fault of their own, were stripped of the money they should have received through a fair and open process. I urge that, when the Legislature convenes in 2017, funding for those projects be immediately appropriated at the LCCMR-recommended levels.

Sincerely,



Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Senate Majority Leader
Senator David W. Hann, Senate Minority Leader
Senator Kari Dziedzic
Representative Kurt Daudt, Speaker of the House
Representative Paul Thissen, House Minority Leader
Representative Tom Hackbarth
The Honorable Steve Simon, Secretary of State
Ms. JoAnne Zoff, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Patrick Murphy, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Ms. Michele Timmons, Revisor of Statutes