

March 20, 2002

The Honorable Don Samuelson
President of the Senate
121 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Samuelson:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of my intention to allow Chapter 244, Senate File 1495 to become law without my signature. I have chosen this course of action for three reasons.

Agriculture plays a critical role in our State's economy. We need to actively support agriculture in our Minnesota. SF1495 clearly benefits our farmers by creating a new market for soy oil and it benefits Greater Minnesota by creating economic development opportunities related to the biodiesel industry. I fully support both of these outcomes.

I believe we need to pursue renewable fuels. Renewable fuels like biodiesel reduce our dependence on foreign oil and are better for the environment. Again, I fully support this outcome of SF1495.

However, I have serious reservations about any mandate from the government. I have reservations about legislation with elaborate conditions for future action. I am also troubled by the fact that the legislature can pass SF1495, increase future fuel costs and add to inflation while they ignore inflation in their proposed budget solutions. If this bill did not present such a clear opportunity for our farmers and our State, I would veto the bill on these grounds alone.

After balancing the statewide benefits of SF1495 against my concerns about the process used to gain those benefits, I have decided that I cannot sign the bill but I also will not stand in the way of its implementation.

March 15, 2002

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Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

cc: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Steve Sviggum, Speaker of the House
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Representative Tim Finseth
Senator Steve Murphy
Mr. Patrick Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State