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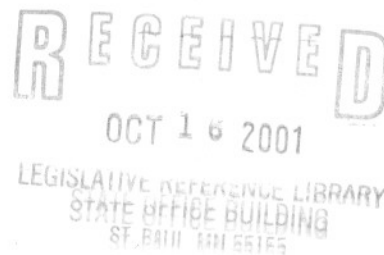
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MINNESOTA'S
FEDERAL
PRIORITIES
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DEPARTMENT OF

Administration



David Fisher was appointed commissioner of the Department of Administration by Governor Ventura in March 1999. Prior to his appointment, he served as vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of ADC Telecommunications of Minnetonka.

Fisher also spent 15 years at Pillsbury, serving for five of those years as vice president and associate general counsel as manager of the firm's business initiatives in Eastern Europe. Fisher has a bachelor of arts in history, biology and chemistry from the University of Minnesota, and a law degree from Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kansas.

Commissioner David Fisher Minnesota Department of Administration

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The Department of Administration's mission is to improve the quality and productivity of Minnesota government by providing business management and administrative services, including electronic government services. With jobs as varied as maintaining government buildings and grounds, managing information technology resources, or devising technology policy to meet the needs of the new millennium, the Department of Administration's employees are customer-oriented. They are pledged to making government work better. Every day, the department expresses a belief that it can help bring government and citizens closer together and strengthen democracy by providing "service, not systems."

Building the Information Highway

Not all communities throughout the state have access, either actual or affordable, to advanced telecommunications services, placing these communities at a disadvantage in retaining as well as attracting industry. The Department of Administration urges Congress to work with state and local communities to help Minnesota's communities establish telecommunications plans and coordinate technology investment strategies with schools and libraries. The department also urges support for Connecting Minnesota, a project that allows the private sector to place fiber optic infrastructure along state and interstate highways.

Criminal Justice Information System Integration

During the 2000 legislative session, Minnesota continued its efforts to create a statewide-integrated criminal justice information system (CriMNet) by appropriating \$13.8 million for new technology. The state has also developed an integration model that will allow information to be exchanged between 1,100 criminal justice entities in Minnesota, and those at the federal level, which will ultimately better ensure public safety. This collaborative effort between local, state and federal agencies needs adequate funding from all levels to be successful. The state of Minnesota, led by the departments of Public Safety, Administration and Corrections, urges Congress to help fund Minnesota's continued efforts to integrate criminal data to improve the safety of our citizens.

Data Privacy

The state of Minnesota has developed data privacy policies in areas such as government information, medical records and insurance. These policies focus largely on the individual's right to know when information is being maintained, the right to review records and know how they are used, the right to accuracy of information, and the right to consent to dissemination of information. The Department of Administration urges Congress to ensure that medical privacy bills, financial services and Internet security bills introduced in the 107th Congress, are aligned with current data privacy policies of the state of Minnesota.

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Telecommunications Reform

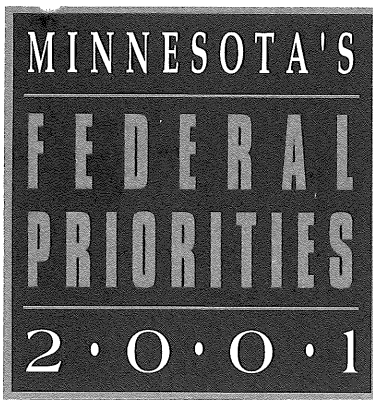
The Ventura Administration is advancing state legislation that would rewrite Minnesota telecommunications law to enhance fair competition and promote access to telecommunications services for all Minnesotans. The 107th Congress may consider legislation on: reciprocal compensation; deregulation of midsize carriers; access charge reform; jurisdictional separation; cable modem open access; and FCC merger reviews. The Minnesota departments of Commerce and Administration urge Congress to ensure that any federal telecommunications legislation helps Minnesota decrease rates for services, improve service quality, advance services to all parts of the state and increase consumer choice.

Uniform Construction Codes

Minnesota is a recognized leader in the national effort to adopt a single set of nationwide construction codes. The Department of Administration urges Congress to promote one set of compatible construction standards across the country. The department also recommends that modifications to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulation of manufactured homes be done in close collaboration with the states.

Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

The Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities has for 30 years achieved outstanding results in increasing the independence, productivity, integration and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and their families. The council is funded under P.L. 106-402. In 1995, state developmental disabilities councils realized an 8.5 percent reduction in federal funding. To date, that loss has not been restored. The Department of Administration strongly encourages the restoration of federal funds to all state developmental disabilities councils.



Governor Jesse Ventura appointed Gene Hugoson commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in January 1999. A southwestern Minnesota farmer from Martin County, Hugoson was first appointed as Agriculture commissioner in July 1995, after serving five terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

**Commissioner Gene Hugoson
Department of Agriculture**

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DEPARTMENT OF

Agriculture

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture promotes food products, protects consumers, provides information and assistance to Minnesota's farmers and protects our natural environment. The MDA's vision focuses on both the agricultural producer and the consumer of food products. This is accomplished through protection and promotion of Minnesota's agricultural production, regulation and inspection of food products for both human and animal consumption and the promotion and development of economic opportunities for Minnesota agriculture and its products.

FARM INCOME AND MARKET ACCESS

2002 Farm Bill

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture supports congressional review of the 1996 farm bill to examine its effectiveness in moving producers toward a more market-based federal farm policy. The MDA advocates changes to the farm bill that will better stabilize farm income, provide farmers greater access to foreign markets and provide producers with additional risk management tools. The department opposes any return to supply-management programs of the past that distort the market and allow foreign competitors to capture additional export market share.

Trade and New Market Opportunities

The Ventura administration urges the 107th Congress and the new federal administration to eliminate trade sanctions that prevent U.S. farmers from accessing foreign markets. The MDA also encourages Congress to grant fast-track negotiating authority to the President, allowing the United States to negotiate trade agreements that will reduce trade barriers and provide greater access for U.S. agricultural products.

Interstate Dairy Compacts and Federal Milk Marketing Orders

The MDA supports the elimination of the Northeast Dairy Compact. Short of elimination, the department opposes its expansion and opposes the creation of any other interstate dairy compacts that seek to hinder the free trade of dairy products. The Ventura administration also urges Congress to reform the milk marketing order system to provide fairness in milk pricing to dairy farmers in the Upper Midwest.

Interstate Shipment of State-Inspected Meat

Allowing Minnesota producers to ship state-inspected meat products across the country and overseas would provide new market opportunities for Minnesota agricultural products. The MDA therefore urges Congress to lift the current ban on the shipment of state-inspected meat across state lines.

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CONSERVATION

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and Reinvest in Minnesota

The MDA supports the continuation of federal-state partnerships that leverage taxpayer dollars and provide further incentives for conservation efforts, such as the successful CREP-RIM partnership. The Ventura administration seeks congressional support for additional extensions of the CREP agreement and supports a federal-state partnership that ties CREP payments to priority implementation strategies identified in state nonpoint source pollution plans.

Conservation Reserve Program

The Department of Agriculture backs moderate expansions of the CRP that target environmentally sensitive lands while weighing the economic impact of idling substantial amounts of acreage for long periods of time. The MDA urges Congress to develop a three- to five-year program for counties that are close to exceeding the 25 percent acreage cap, while also considering the grazing and haying of some CRP lands in exchange for reduced annual payments.

Green Payments

As part of the next farm bill discussion, the MDA advocates the consideration of incentive payments to farmers for conservation tillage, buffer strips and nutrient management plans that contribute to both water quality improvement and farm income. The MDA urges state involvement to ensure complementary relationships to state nonpoint source pollution plans.

REGULATORY ISSUES

Regulating Feedlots

The MDA believes regulation of animal feedlot operations should be addressed at the state level. The department is concerned about the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed CAFO strategy to improve water quality, which would significantly expand federal regulation and add significant costs to producers. The MDA encourages Congress and the President to re-examine federal involvement in this issue. Ventura administration agencies are working together on review of this regulatory proposal.

Total Maximum Daily Loads

The EPA's proposed rules to revise the TMDL provisions of the Clean Water Act have the potential to cause severe economic impacts on Minnesota farmers. The MDA supports a National Academy of Sciences study of the development and implementation of TMDLs and alternative programs or mechanisms to reduce water quality impairments. Voluntary and technical assistance strategies are preferred over regulatory approaches in dealing with agricultural nonpoint source pollution in TMDL watersheds. The MDA urges Congress to direct funds to the states in the form of block grants to help producers make necessary environmental improvements to their operations and achieve compliance with emerging federal and state regulations.

Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico

A large area of the Gulf of Mexico currently suffers from oxygen levels too low to sustain most aquatic life. The Department of Agriculture advocates voluntary, financial and technical assistance efforts, coupled with appropriate monitoring to track changes and improvements to water quality in the Minnesota and Mississippi River Basins. Programs like CREP will help in this regard. A greater understanding is needed to deal with the complicated environmental interactions of natural systems, past agricultural practices and the effects of changed practices; therefore, the department urges the EPA and other agencies to build state and local partnerships to address nutrient issues.

Genetically Modified Organisms

The MDA acknowledges the tremendous potential for biotechnology to improve food quality, food safety and produce traits that will be beneficial to consumers. However, the roles of the EPA, FDA and USDA must be clarified to ensure that genetically enhanced crops are not released until they are approved for export markets, or until there is a segregation system in place to prevent commingling of GMO and non-GMO crops. The MDA opposes mandatory labeling of biotechnology products, but supports a voluntary labeling system for identity-preserved agricultural and food products based on a clear and factual certification process.

Food Safety

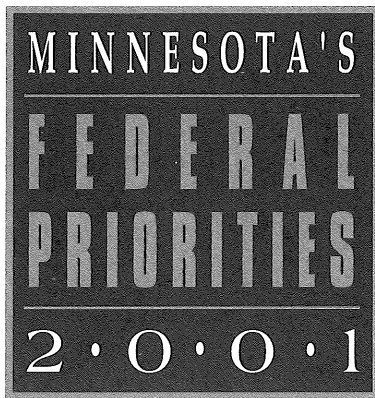
As part of the President's Food Safety Initiative, federal, state and local agencies have worked extensively towards establishing a seamless National Food Safety System, strengthening not only our food safety system, but also contributing to the nation's anti-bioterrorism infrastructure. The MDA supports continued federal funding of this 50-state effort.

Tax Reforms

The Ventura administration advocates reform of federal estate tax laws – either by raising exemptions to assist farmers in transferring their farms to the future generations, or eliminating the tax altogether. The MDA supports additional tax changes, including a \$500,000 capital gains exclusion from the sale of assets held more than 10 years for farmers and small businesses, which would bring more farm real estate on the market and also aid in the orderly transfer of assets to the next generation. Legislation to allow full deductibility of health and long-term care insurance for the self-employed would enable more farmers to provide adequate health insurance for their families. Authorization of farm and ranch risk management accounts would create tax deductible reserve accounts to supplement farmers in low-income or disaster years.

Lock and Dam Upgrades

A competitive, cost-effective system is essential to transport Minnesota agricultural products to foreign markets. The existing lock and dam system on the Mississippi River requires upgrades to continue as a competitive option for transporting Minnesota agricultural products and to reduce growing demands on rail and road systems. The MDA encourages congressional funding for upgrades to the lock and dam system on the Mississippi River.



DEPARTMENT OF

Children, Families & Learning

Governor Ventura appointed Christine Jax to lead the Department of Children, Families & Learning in January 1999. Prior to her appointment, she was a professor of education at Saint Mary's University. Her extensive experience in the field includes teaching and research at the College of Saint Catherine and the University of Minnesota; a Ph.D. in educational policy and a bachelor's degree in child psychology from the University of Minnesota; a master's degree in public administration from Hamline University; and teaching and administrative experience in various education and child care settings. In 1992, she founded a school for homeless children.

Commissioner Christine Jax Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

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FEBRUARY 2001

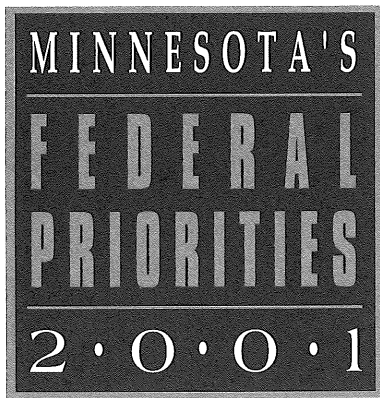
The Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning works to help communities to measurably improve the well-being of children through programs that focus on education, community services, prevention, and the preparation of young people for the world of work. All department efforts emphasize the achievement of positive results for children and their families. Through the integration of its programs at the state level, the department encourages state education professionals and family and community service providers to work together to meet the needs of Minnesota's children and families.

FULL FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Ventura administration has only one federal education priority – **full federal funding of special education**. Twenty-five years ago when Congress first authorized legislation that later became known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, they promised to fund 40 percent of the cost of serving students with disabilities. However, by the 1999-2000 school year, Congress had made good on only a quarter of that promise, funding a mere 11 percent of Minnesota's special education costs. Because IDEA statutes require that federal special education funds be used to supplement, not supplant state and local funds, the state's education resources are being increasingly diverted to serve special education learners. As Congress has continued to fail to meet its obligation to special education children, Minnesota's general education revenue sources have subsidized the costs of special education in the amount of \$250 million annually.

This predicament is complicated further by the piles of special education paperwork required by the federal government, which overburdens Minnesota's special education teachers. We are facing a crisis – more and more special education teachers are retiring while fewer and fewer college graduates choose the special education field. We cannot attract teachers to this field if we continue to expect them to act as accountants.

In recent years, Congress has allocated significant funding for a myriad of worthwhile investments including charter schools and class size reduction, and it has debated ways to maximize student achievement and increase the supply of quality teachers. While the Ventura administration supports these programs, we are confident that we can address our education problems and make Minnesota's the best K-12 system in the nation without any other federal support, if Congress would deliver on its promise to fund special education. From the Ventura administration to Congress – here's our message: **fully fund 40 percent of our special education costs**. That's what we need most from the federal government regarding education. We'll do the rest.



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF

Commerce

The Minnesota Department of Commerce serves the citizens of Minnesota by enforcing state laws and safeguarding consumers' rights and investments; resolving conflicts between consumers and industry; and enhancing the stability and strength of regulated industries in Minnesota. These goals, pursued in a professional manner, contribute to a fair and equitable marketplace. The Department of Commerce oversees Minnesota's regulated industries including banking, insurance, energy, telecommunications, securities and real estate.

Telecommunications Reform

The Ventura administration is advancing state legislation that would rewrite Minnesota telecommunications law to enhance fair competition and promote access to telecommunications services for all Minnesotans. The 107th Congress may consider legislation on: reciprocal compensation; deregulation of midsize carriers; access charge reform; jurisdictional separation; cable modem open access; and FCC merger reviews. The Minnesota departments of Commerce and Administration urge Congress to ensure that any federal telecommunications legislation aids Minnesota in decreasing rates for services, improving service quality, advancing services to all parts of the state and increasing consumer choice.

Electric Industry Restructuring

As electric utility industries are complex and vary greatly from state to state, Minnesota is opposed to comprehensive federal electric industry restructuring and urges Congress to leave to the states the authority to restructure electric utilities. Minnesota has a stake in monitoring issues that will impact electric transmission and net-metering issues related to on-site generation. The Department of Commerce is concerned about proposals to establish a national electric reliability organization, which might supercede Minnesota's ability to oversee energy issues. The department also opposes a repeal of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies and the Public Utilities Holding Company acts.

Renewable Energy Incentives

The state of Minnesota encourages initiatives that broaden the state's energy mix away from traditional fossil fuels to renewable forms of energy such as wind, solar, biomass, hydro or fuel cells. The federal government should promote by direct incentives, tax credits or other mechanisms the construction or operation of electric generation fueled by renewable energy sources. The Department of Commerce also backs the extension of current renewable energy production tax credits beyond their present sunset date.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and Weatherization Assistance Program

Because of Minnesota's cold climate, the Ventura administration supports full and consistent funding of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance and the Weatherization Assistance programs.

Governor Jesse Ventura appointed James Bernstein as commissioner of the Department of Commerce in July 2000. Bernstein had served as acting commissioner since February 2000, and previously was deputy commissioner responsible for the department's strategic planning and policy development. He was also vice president of research for Colle & McVoy Inc. Bernstein graduated cum laude from Augsburg College with a bachelor's degree in political science. He served as president of the State Board of Technical Colleges in 1993. He is currently a program adviser for St. Cloud Technical College and a member of the Minnesota State College and University Trustee Candidate Council. Bernstein was appointed to the Minneapolis Charter Commission in 1999.

Commissioner James Bernstein Minnesota Department of Commerce

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Fuel Issues

The Department of Commerce has an interest in monitoring factors related to petroleum and natural gas prices, as well as issues related to oxygenated gasoline additives (MBTE vs. ethanol). The department is a strong advocate of funding for programs that support development of hydrogen and biodiesel technologies as fuel and energy sources.

Nuclear Waste Disposal and Repository

The Department of Commerce, working in conjunction with the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition, urges the 107th Congress to provide a long-awaited solution to the nuclear waste issue. Such legislation must provide a date certain for removing nuclear waste from commercial nuclear generation facilities and include the placing of nuclear waste funds in escrow while the waste is moved to a temporary or permanent facility.

Kansas Advalorem

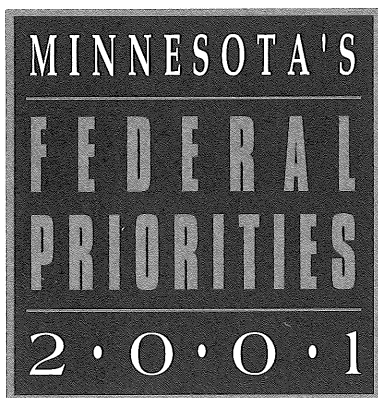
The state of Minnesota recently reached a settlement with natural gas producers to refund Kansas "Advalorem" taxes due to Minnesota consumers. As the settlement was complex and difficult to achieve, the Ventura administration vehemently opposes any congressional efforts to overturn this agreement.

Repeal of the Alternative Mortgage Parity Act

The Alternative Mortgage Parity Act, which was passed in 1982 in the face of historically high interest rates, aimed to make mortgages more flexible by giving housing creditors the ability to bypass certain state laws and allow more people to purchase homes. Unfortunately, some lenders have used the statute to engage in predatory lending practices. Therefore, the Department of Commerce supports a repeal of the Alternative Mortgage Parity Act.

Data Privacy

The state of Minnesota recently developed data privacy policies in areas such as government information, medical records and insurance. Because of the impact to both industry and consumers, the Department of Commerce is interested in any legislation that modifies privacy provisions of the 1999 Financial Modernization Act, or other bills dealing with the privacy of consumer information that may not be aligned with the current data privacy practices of the state of Minnesota.



DEPARTMENT OF

Corrections

Sheryl Ramstad Hvass was appointed commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Corrections in February 1999. Previously, Ramstad Hvass was a law partner at Rider, Bennet, Egan & Arundel in Minneapolis. From 1982 to 1986, she was a judge of Hennepin County Court. She also served as an assistant U.S. attorney and as an assistant Hennepin County public defender. Ramstad Hvass worked at the women's federal facility in Alderson, West Virginia, and served on the board for Project Elan, a community correctional program for female offenders. She was president of the Minnesota and Hennepin County bar associations and Minnesota Women Lawyers. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota, and law degree from the University of North Dakota.

**Commissioner
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Corrections**

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The Minnesota Department of Corrections' mission is to contribute to a safer Minnesota by providing quality, cost-effective correctional services. As both a service and regulatory agency, the department has a broad scope of activities and responsibilities. The department's responsibilities include: operation of both adult and juvenile state correctional facilities; provision of probation, supervised release and parole services; administration of the state community corrections act; and provision of assistance and guidance on a statewide basis in the management of criminal justice programs and facilities. The Department of Corrections currently operates 11 correctional facilities, including eight for adults and three for juvenile offenders.

Social Security Act Title IV-E Funding

Title IV-E funding permits federal reimbursement to counties for costs of child foster care maintenance provided by approved facilities. Currently, only public agencies with less than 25 beds and licensed private agencies – both for-profit and nonprofit – qualify as approved facilities. The Minnesota Department of Corrections juvenile facilities do not qualify for Title IV-E funding due to this bed restriction. The Department of Corrections urges Congress to raise the 25-bed limit for public facilities in order to provide a level playing field with private facilities and to assist Minnesota's counties in placing children based on their treatment needs rather than budget reimbursement issues.

Criminal Justice Information System Integration

During the 2000 legislative session, Minnesota continued its efforts to create a statewide-integrated criminal justice information system (CriMNet) by appropriating \$13.8 million for new technology. The state has also developed an integration model that will allow information to be exchanged between 1,100 criminal justice entities in Minnesota, and at the federal level, which will ultimately better ensure public safety. This collaborative effort between local, state and federal agencies needs adequate funding from all levels to be successful. The state of Minnesota, led by the departments of Public Safety, Administration and Corrections, urges Congress to help fund Minnesota's continued efforts to integrate criminal data to improve the safety of our citizens.

Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing Incentive Act

The Department of Corrections urges Congress to support continued federal funding to expand the number of prison beds. Since 1996, the department has received \$29 million, with up to 10 percent of recent awards to be used for chemical dependency matters.

Specter Funding

Under current federal law, post-secondary education funding for inmates (Specter dollars) may only be used for inmates up to age 25 who are to be released within five years. In the Minnesota correctional system, 95 percent of all offenders, regardless of age, will eventually return to the community, and offenders who have obtained their GED or AA degrees have a better chance of not recidivating than

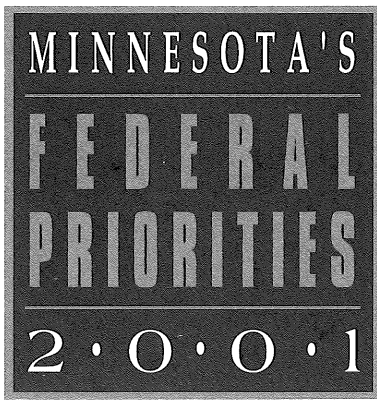
those who have not. The Department of Corrections urges Congress to repeal the age requirement in order to allow a greater number of inmates to receive the education they need to make a successful transition back into the community.

Other Important Sources of Funding

The Department of Corrections supports continued federal funding of grants that help keep correctional facilities operating in Minnesota. These sources include: State Criminal Alien Assistance Act; Literacy for Incarcerated Adults; Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners; Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants; the National School Breakfast/Lunch Program; Byrne Grant; and the National Criminal History Improvement Program.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

A primary goal of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program is to enable children of low-income families to be cared for in their homes or in the homes of relatives. The Department of Corrections has proposed using TANF dollars to help juveniles who are transitioning back into the community from an out-of-home placement. Since families or guardians are often unable to support juveniles upon their return from a correctional facility, these funds would aid in successful transitions back into the community and reduce recidivism rates. The Department of Corrections urges Congress to continue to support the appropriation of TANF dollars.



DEPARTMENT OF

Economic Security

Governor Ventura appointed Earl Wilson commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Economic Security in February 1999. Prior to his appointment, Wilson served as the department's deputy commissioner, after retiring with the rank of captain from a distinguished 30-year career in the United States Navy. He is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College; served three years on staff of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon; and ended his career as Navy Readiness commander for the Upper Midwest Region.

Commissioner Earl Wilson Department of Economic Security

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The Minnesota Department of Economic Security's mission statement is "Helping people help themselves achieve economic security." The department has joined with other federal, state and local providers of employment and training services to create the nationally acclaimed WorkForce Center System. Over 50 centers across the state serve as "one-stop shops" for all employment and training needs. The department supports Job Service, Unemployment Insurance, Rehabilitation Services and State Services for the Blind. The department, along with the Governor's Workforce Development Council, local elected officials and Local Workforce Councils, educators, businesses, community and nonprofit organizations take a proactive approach to developing a skilled workforce to ensure Minnesota remains competitive in today's global economy.

Federal Unemployment Tax Act Reform

During the summer of 2000, a broad agreement known as the ES/UI Reform Proposal was reached between business, labor, U.S. Department of Labor and the states to significantly reform the unemployment insurance program. Significant elements of that agreement included tax reduction and simplification for business, expansion of coverage for part-time workers and new labor market entrants, increased administrative funding for state unemployment insurance and employment service activities, and increased solvency for state unemployment insurance trust funds. The agreement was considered but not adopted by the 106th Congress. The Minnesota Department of Economic Security strongly supports passage of an ES/UI reform package in the 107th Congress.

Workforce Investment Act Funding Formulas

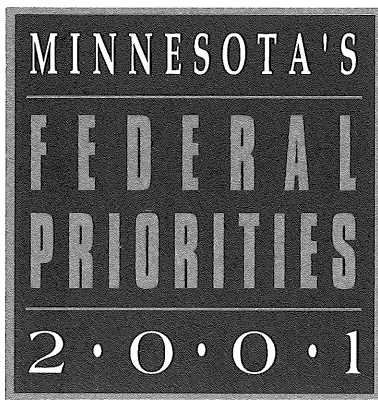
Funding formulas under the Workforce Investment Act Title IB are carryovers from the Job Training Partnership Act, which targeted individuals having difficulty entering the workforce; however, WIA is universal and not a targeted program. The net result of using the antiquated JTPA funding formulas is that Minnesota's allocation suffers when compared to states with comparable workforce sizes. The Department of Economic Security supports legislative changes and more equitable funding formulas to better reflect the intent of the Workforce Investment Act.

Administrative Wage Record File

The administrative wage record file is a set of data produced quarterly in each state through the Unemployment Insurance program. The file includes firms, employees by Social Security Number and wages paid (Minnesota and Washington also request hours worked). The file is a key source of data for measuring workforce policy impacts and policy outcomes, and is an important tool for examining labor market conditions. As the federal government now requires that more data such as occupation be collected and analyzed, the MDES advocates additional resources be allocated for these purposes.

Basic Vocational Rehabilitation 110 Funding

In fiscal year 2000 Minnesota experienced a 1.6 percent decrease in Basic Vocational Rehabilitation 110 funding and further declines are expected under the current allocation methods. MDES supports congressional action to stabilize this funding stream.



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF

Health

Governor Ventura appointed Jan Malcolm as commissioner of the Department of Health in January 1999. Previously, Malcolm was vice president for public affairs at Allina Health System and senior vice president at HealthPartners. She also formulated health policy for PARTNERS National Health Plans of Dallas, American MedCenters, and MedCenters Health Plan.

She started her health policy career at InterStudy, a nationally known research organization in Excelsior, Minnesota. Malcolm currently serves on boards of the United Way of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Partnership for Action Against Tobacco. Malcolm earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and psychology from Dartmouth College.

Commissioner Jan Malcolm Minnesota Department of Health

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The Minnesota Department of Health is dedicated to the prevention of disease and disability, the protection of health, and the promotion of healthy behaviors and conditions that will lead to improved health for all Minnesotans. The Minnesota Department of Health watches for trends in health status and health threats so that it can identify potential roles, assess capacity to respond, and direct efforts where they are needed. The department operates programs in disease prevention and control, health promotion, community public health, health care policy and regulation of health care providers.

Medicare Reimbursement Rates

Because Minnesota has historically been efficient in its treatment of Medicare beneficiaries, Minnesota providers are paid a low monthly rate for Medicare beneficiaries who enroll in managed care. This current system puts our seniors, taxpayers and providers at a disadvantage compared to those in less-efficient regions of the country. The state of Minnesota urges Congress to enact changes to Medicare to equalize this regional imbalance. This is urgently needed to address provider viability, especially in rural Minnesota, and to stop the erosion in benefit coverage Minnesota seniors have experienced in recent years.

Prescription Drug Coverage

In health care today, the lack of drug coverage in any insurance plan is not practical. As more of our health care needs are managed with drugs, seniors more than anyone need drug coverage to maintain their health and prevent more costly services later. The state of Minnesota urges Congress to add prescription drug coverage to the basic Medicare program to help seniors cope with the high costs of prescription drugs. Minnesota's experience with Medicare suggests that a voluntary benefit is difficult to maintain over time.

Medical Education Funding

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 reduced Minnesota's medical education funding by approximately \$100 million from 1998 through 2002. Minnesota's teaching hospitals were significantly impacted by this cut. The state of Minnesota has been supplementing the loss of federal funding through the state's tobacco settlement endowment, but teaching hospitals continue to suffer from the lack of federal funds. The Ventura administration urges Congress to restore enough funds to ensure teaching hospitals have sufficient financial resources to continue their unique missions.

Funding for Rural Health Care Providers

Congress passed legislation in 1999 to provide assistance to health care providers affected by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, however, the restored funding was not enough to help rural providers heavily dependent upon Medicare who had experienced losses prior to the BBA. For example, ambulance providers in Minnesota will face severe rate reductions when two provisions of the BBA become effective this year. The Department of Health urges Congress to consider additional assistance targeted to rural hospitals and health care providers.

Health Disparities

The Minnesota Department of Health urges the continuation of the Surgeon General's Task Force on Health Disparities. While the health status of Minnesotans is generally good, American Indians and people of color in Minnesota experience significant disparities in health status. This task force will be a valuable resource to Congress and the states in addressing these disparities.

Patient Protection Legislation

The Department of Health urges Congress to clarify provisions in any proposed patient-protection legislation that affect states, such as any provision related to the preemption of state law. The Minnesota Department of Health supports legislation that provides a floor, giving states flexibility to implement state law. Minnesota currently has a comprehensive set of patient protection laws and can be a resource to Congress as they look to add specific provisions to federal legislation.

Patient Safety and Medical Errors Reduction

As highlighted by a 1999 Institute of Medicine report, medical errors are a significant national health care problem. Using estimates in the IOM report, medical errors would rank in the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States and cost the health system \$8 billion in direct costs annually. The Department of Health is working with federal agencies, such as the Agency for Health Quality and Research, and supports their continued leadership in helping to address this problem.

Preventive Services Block Grant

The Preventive Services Block Grant provides essential support for numerous public health programs to improve the health of Minnesota residents. It is the only flexible source of federal funding that can be used to address Minnesota-specific needs, as well as new and emerging public health threats. Congress reduced Minnesota's funding by approximately \$426,000 for each of fiscal years 2000 and 2001. The Department of Health urges Congress to restore the cuts to this important program.

Immunization Program Support

The Vaccine for Children program, immunization registries and program support funds for children and adult immunization strategies continue to be critical components of public health programs. The Ventura administration recommends stable, ongoing funding to ensure this program continues to meet the disease-prevention needs of children and adults.

Tobacco Policy

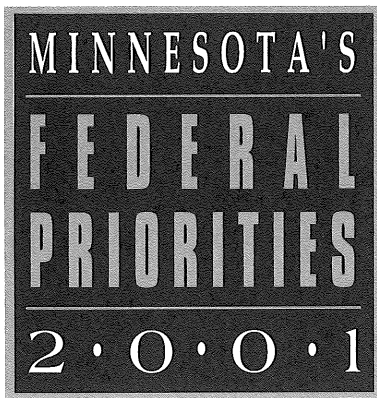
The Department of Health supports continuation of the federal lawsuit against tobacco manufacturers and passage of legislation authorizing strong and effective regulation of tobacco products by the FDA. In addition, the MDH urges Congress to increase the federal excise tax on tobacco and continue federal funding for state-based tobacco prevention and control programs. The MDH also opposes any federal action or policy that would limit or override the ability of the states and local governments to regulate tobacco use.

Environmental Health

The Department of Health urges Congress to protect Americans from chronic diseases by implementing the recommendations of the Pew Environmental Health Commission. Chronic diseases must be tracked by where and when they occur and also by possible links to environmental factors. The MDH supports the following recommendations from the commission: establishing baseline tracking of priority diseases; monitoring of immediate health crises to serve as an early warning system; establishing state pilot tracking programs to address regional environmental health concerns; developing a federal, state and local rapid response capability to investigate clusters, outbreaks and emerging threats; and supporting community interests and scientific research to further health-tracking efforts.

Medical Records Privacy

The 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act mandated the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop privacy regulations and standards that protect the privacy of an individual's health information. The state of Minnesota supports HHS' newly promulgated regulations, which strike an appropriate balance in allowing for necessary and important public health use of the data while protecting the privacy of individuals.



MINNESOTA

Housing Finance Agency

Katherine G. "Kit" Hadley was appointed commissioner of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency in 1994. Prior to her appointment, she served as a deputy commissioner and as the director of intergovernmental affairs at MHFA. Previously, Hadley was a staff attorney for the Legal Services Advocacy Project, engaged in legislative advocacy on a variety of housing, employment, public benefits and juvenile court issues; and she was a staff attorney at Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, specializing in employment and family law. Hadley has a bachelor of arts degree from Hampshire College, Amherst, Massachusetts, and a law degree from the University of Minnesota.

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FEBRUARY 2001

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The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) addresses Minnesota's basic need for decent, safe, affordable housing, helping to build stronger communities throughout Minnesota. MHFA receives state and federal appropriations and offers homeownership and rental financing programs, focusing resources on low-income Minnesotans. MHFA also administers approximately \$130 million of federal project-based rental assistance for properties the agency financed.

Production of Affordable Housing

Minnesota is facing a bona fide housing crisis. Rental vacancy rates are at all-time lows. The rate of homelessness in Minnesota is too high, even among women, children and those employed full-time. Increasingly, rent constitutes more than 50 percent of a family's income and many families cannot find a place to rent, even with federal rental assistance. Property owners can make more money renting their units on the private market than participating in government housing programs. There is a critical need for a federal production program designed to house the lowest income American families. The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency urges Congress to return to being a true partner in the production of affordable housing for low- and very low-income families.

Repeal of the 10-Year Rule

When first-time homebuyers make monthly mortgage payments or repay their mortgages, MHFA recycles these payments into new loans. Most of MHFA's first-time homebuyer funds come from these recycled payments. An obscure Internal Revenue Service provision, the 10-year rule prevents issuers from recycling payments into new loans after a certain period of time. Consequently, MHFA is experiencing a reduction in its first-time homebuyer activity. MHFA urges Congress to eliminate the 10-year rule.

Preservation of Federally Assisted Housing

In Minnesota's current tight rental market, the potential to significantly increase rents entices owners to cancel their participation in federal assistance programs. Thus, the availability of federally assisted housing is decreasing in Minnesota. The Ventura administration has provided a substantial state investment in the preservation of federally assisted housing in Minnesota, and federal funding would greatly supplement the state's preservation efforts. MHFA urges Congress to enact legislation that removes barriers and provides adequate resources to preserve assisted housing at risk of being lost through either conversion to market rents or contract cancellation.

Affordable Housing in Greater Minnesota

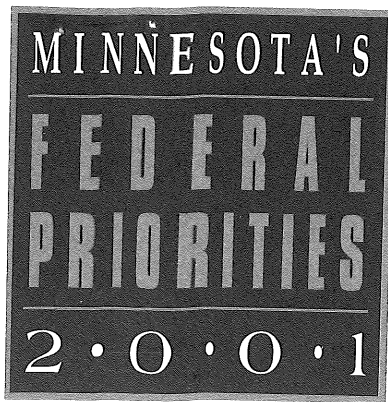
Two block grants, HOME and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), are the backbone for rehabilitation programs of owner-occupied and rental housing in Greater Minnesota. These block grants have seen nominal funding-level increases in recent years. MHFA urges Congress to increase appropriations for HOME and CDBG.

Housing Credit Program

The usefulness of the Housing Credit Program in providing housing for poor working families is limited in many rural counties with low median incomes. Project feasibility is difficult when rents are set too low and the Department of Housing and Urban Development adjusts income limits downward to ensure compatibility with its fair market rents. MHFA urges Congress to pass measures that will make the housing credit a more useful tool for housing low-income families in rural Minnesota.

Block Granting Housing Programs

MHFA urges Congress to combine several HUD programs and their functions into one or more block grant programs. To better accommodate different needs and capabilities throughout the country, states should be permitted the opportunity to select which programs to accept and administer as a block grant.



DEPARTMENT OF

Human Services

Governor Jesse Ventura appointed Michael O'Keefe to lead the Minnesota Department of Human Services in January 1999. Prior to his appointment, O'Keefe served as executive vice president of the McKnight Foundation, Minnesota's largest foundation. O'Keefe was president of the Consortium for the Advancement of Private Higher Education and has held executive positions at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare; and the University of Illinois. A native of St. Cloud, he has a master's degree in nuclear physics from the University of Pittsburgh and an honorary doctorate from Hamline University. He has been a University of Minnesota Regent since 1996.

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The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) mission is to provide health care, economic assistance and social services to Minnesotans whose personal or family resources are inadequate to meet their basic human needs. The department's wide-reaching charge includes health care, family and children's services, economic self-sufficiency, community mental health services and state psychiatric hospitals, as well as services to the elderly. The department promotes the dignity, safety and rights of the individual and ensures public accountability and trust through responsible use of available resources.

REACHING OUR HEALTH CARE GOALS

Children's Health Insurance Program

Minnesota is locked out of the new federal funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) because the state acted early and responsibly to provide health coverage to uninsured children through the MinnesotaCare program. Despite the success of MinnesotaCare, there are still 40,000 to 50,000 low-income, uninsured children in Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Human Services urges the Health Care Financing Administration to approve a waiver giving Minnesota access to its CHIP allotment to target those children that are still uninsured and improve problem areas within the existing infrastructure of the MinnesotaCare program.

Medicare Managed Care Payment Inequities

The Medicare program, which pays health maintenance organizations in Minnesota for beneficiaries choosing to enroll in a Medicare managed care option, penalizes both the recipient and Minnesota taxpayers. Historically, Minnesota has been very efficient in its treatment of Medicare beneficiaries. However, since other states have had higher historical costs, they now consequently receive higher flat monthly payments for beneficiaries who enroll in managed care. The 1997 Balanced Budget Act corrected some of the Medicare payment inequities and raised the flat monthly rate that HMOs receive in the state, but failed to break the link between current payments and past spending. DHS urges Congress to reform the Medicare+Choice base methodology to eliminate these payment inequities.

Medicare Coverage of Prescription Drugs

Minnesota implemented a state-funded program that provides prescription drugs for senior citizens that began offering coverage on January 1, 1999. The program was subsequently expanded during the 2000 Minnesota legislative session. The program now covers seniors who are uninsured for prescription drugs, whose income is below 120 percent of federal poverty, and whose assets are below \$10,000 for an individual and \$18,000 for a couple. The cost to the enrollee is a \$35 per month deductible. DHS supports Medicare coverage of prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries or a less expensive alternative that gives state Medicaid programs the option to add a prescription drug benefit to their existing Medicare buy-in program.

Restore Medicaid Eligibility and Create S-CHIP Eligibility for Certain Immigrants

The 1996 welfare reform law significantly reduced access to health care services and adversely affected the insurance status for immigrants who legally entered the United States after August 1996. Thirteen states, including Minnesota, chose to extend Medicaid coverage (at their own expense) to children of legal immigrants who entered the country after 1996. DHS supports the restoration of Medicaid

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eligibility, and the creation of S-CHIP eligibility, for some or all of those who would have been eligible prior to enactment of the welfare reform law.

Indian Health Care Improvement Act

The Indian Health Service has a \$2.6 billion budget and \$13 billion of unmet need. Given this shortfall, IHS facilities provide reduced benefits compared to the state Medical Assistance programs. As a result, costs for many services counties provide to Indian children, such as Rule 79 Case Management, Therapeutic Supports for Foster Care, and Family Community Support Services are shifted to Minnesota's taxpayers. DHS supports reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and efforts to allow tribes to directly bill Medicaid, Medicare and other third-party payers, and expand eligibility for the program to other tribes and tribal organizations.

Synar Compliance

Despite the state of Minnesota's strong commitment to reducing teen smoking and access to tobacco, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) last year concluded that Minnesota was out of compliance with federal Synar regulations. SAMSHA recommended that the Health and Human Services Secretary reduce the state's Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment block grant by 40 percent – a sanction of \$8.3 million. Minnesota avoided this penalty by committing over \$2 million in new state funds in 2000 to strengthen our state youth tobacco efforts. While the Ventura administration strongly supports the spirit of the Synar law to reduce teens' access to tobacco, DHS backs efforts to unlink Synar compliance and potential reductions in the SAPT block grant.

HELPING ALL MINNESOTANS BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT

Child Welfare Title IV-E, Emergency Family Foster Care

A recent federal rule change (45 CFR, Part 1355) withdrew Title IV-E funding from family foster care homes that are operating temporarily under an emergency relative license, until they meet the full requirements for licensure as a foster care facility. As such, counties may no longer cover the costs of emergency placement with relatives and still receive IV-E reimbursement – forcing them to either pay for emergency relative placement, or place the child in a nonrelative licensed home. DHS supports restoration of IV-E eligibility and funds for emergency family foster placements in accordance with the spirit of the Adoption and Safe Families Act regarding stability and kinship preference.

Unnecessary Institutionalization of Persons with Disabilities

The Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* (1999) challenges states to prevent and correct inappropriate institutionalization of persons with disabilities. The Department of Human Services supports efforts by HCFA to review federal Medicaid policies and regulations to identify areas in which policy clarification or modification would facilitate state efforts to enable persons with disabilities to be served in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs. DHS also supports using the cost neutrality equation to cover institution for mental disease stays, and the temporary lifting of immigration rules to address the availability of health care staff.

MINNESOTA AND THE HEALTH CARE FINANCING AGENCY (HCFA)

HCFA Nursing Facility Survey and Enforcement Process Waiver

The state of Minnesota supports a waiver mechanism to allow innovative alternatives to the HCFA nursing facility survey and enforcement process. There is interest from state survey agencies throughout the country in modifying the survey process. HCFA has not been able to approve any modifications to the survey process because it does not have the authority to grant a waiver to federal Medicare law.

Regulatory Burdens

The state of Minnesota supports efforts to reduce HCFA long-term care regulations that hamper state flexibility and place burdens on the state's goal of achieving high-quality care and optimum outcomes for consumers of services.

UNDERFUNDED FEDERAL MANDATES

Limited English Proficiency

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights recently issued new guidance on how people with limited English skills must be served by states. While the Ventura administration concurs that DHS should provide access to services for people of limited English speaking ability, the resource demands to both counties and the state to develop and support the infrastructure necessary for this requirement is significant, with expenditures exceeding \$5 million over the next biennium. The state of Minnesota maintains that federal funding at a rate of 100 percent should be made available to meet the requirements of this new federal mandate.

OTHER IMPORTANT FEDERAL REAUTHORIZATIONS AND FUNDING

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The state of Minnesota supports the reauthorization of the TANF block grant. In order to continue the successes achieved during the initial years of welfare reform, the current level of funding should be sustained with further flexibility in program administration.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The state of Minnesota supports 90 percent FFP for the systems implications attributed to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Title XX, Social Services Block Grant

Recent reductions in the Social Services Block Grant have made it increasingly difficult for counties to fund child welfare-related, family support and family preservation activities, as well as aging and disability services. The Department of Human Services supports restoring the block grant to the 1996 funding level of \$2.3 billion.

Title IV-E Eligibility Standard

Medicaid and Title IV-E funding is tied to the poverty guidelines and income eligibility limits established at the time the Welfare Reform Law was passed in 1996. There was no index allowed for inflation, nor was growth in the economy taken into consideration. This has resulted in local dollars being used to serve an increasing number of poor, but non IV-E eligible populations. The Department of Human Services supports indexing Medicaid and IV-E funds to the rate of inflation.

Children's Health Act

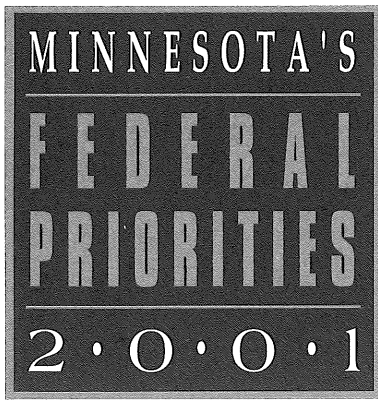
The state of Minnesota supports the passage and full funding of the Children's Health Act as it relates to: autism; hearing loss in infants; Safe Motherhood; adoption awareness; traumatic brain injury; Healthy Start; Tourette Syndrome awareness; youth drug and mental health services; and a number of other children's health areas.

Child Protection/Alcohol and Drug Partnership Act

Minnesota supports passage and full funding of the Child Protection/Alcohol and Drug Partnership Act. This act targets critically needed services to families with chemical dependency issues who are involved in the child welfare system.

Federal Americans with Disabilities Act

The state of Minnesota supports adequate funding for the Minnesota Department of Human Services to meet sign language interpreter accommodations mandated by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.



Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board

John Swift was appointed IRRRB commissioner in February 1999. Born and raised on an Indiana farm, Swift began a successful banking career at age 19 and became the executive vice president of a small bank in southern Indiana at age 26. He was hired by St. Cloud-based Banker Systems, Inc., and moved to St. Cloud in 1974 to become BSI's comptroller. Swift became president of the company's financial service's division in 1977. Upon retirement in 1994, he purchased Pike Bay Lodge on Lake Vermilion. He is a member of the Virginia/Mountain Iron Area Chamber of Commerce and past president of the Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner John Swift Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board

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The Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) is charged with the economic development and diversification of a region in northeastern Minnesota defined as the Taconite Tax Relief Area, including all or parts of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Aitkin and Crow Wing counties. The IRRRB, headquartered in Eveleth, Minnesota, was created in 1941 and is funded by taconite production taxes levied on mining operations in lieu of local property taxes. The agency receives no operational funding from the State General Fund, but its commissioner is appointed by the governor. As of July, 1, 1999, the IRRRB commissioner is advised by a board comprised of five state senators, five state representatives and three citizens, a majority of whom must come from TTRA districts.

LTV Steel Mining Company Closure

On January 6, 2001, the LTV Steel Mining Company in Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings and subsequently closed its mining facility and operations resulting in the loss of 1,400 full-time mining positions. The company is the region's sixth largest private employer and second largest taconite plant operation in northeast Minnesota. Since the plant closure the IRRRB has been working to address worker retention and assistance, community impacts and LTV facility re-use. The IRRRB and ARDC as co-applicants have requested economic adjustment funding from the Economic Development Administration. The total project cost is \$875,000 with \$525,000 (60 percent) requested as a grant from the EDA and the remainder as a nonfederal cash match from the IRRRB. The IRRRB supports any efforts to expedite the application review process and anticipates the need for additional EDA assistance.

Steel Industry

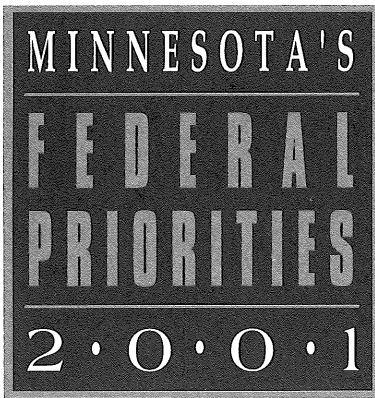
The Ventura administration believes that unfair steel imports are threatening the existence of the domestic iron ore industry and supports efforts to convince the Bush administration of the importance of a viable American iron and steel industry. The Ventura administration urges the congressional delegation to take all actions consistent with the 1974 Federal Trade Act to combat large increases of unfair steel imports.

NRRI Mercury Project

The Natural Resources Research Institute is proposing to conduct a three-year testing and demonstration project to decrease mercury emissions from the Clay Boswell power generation facility owned and operated by Allete, formerly Minnesota Power. The Ventura administration supports efforts to obtain \$1.2 million in federal Economic Development Administration grant funds to administer the project.

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DEPARTMENT OF

Labor and Industry

Gretchen Maglich was appointed commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry in January 1999, by Governor Jesse Ventura. She has been with the Department of Labor and Industry since 1995, as assistant commissioner of the Workers' Compensation Division and commissioner of the department under Governor Carlson. Previously, she held the position of assistant city manager in Maplewood, Minnesota. She has a master of arts degree in industrial relations and a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Minnesota.

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The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry strives to promote a safe, efficient and productive work environment for Minnesota's workplaces. The department is the regulatory agency responsible for compliance with workplace statutes and rules in Minnesota. Its customers are the state's 2.5 million workers and 150,000 employers. The department focuses on preventing workplace accidents and illness through consultation and compliance efforts, oversees the workers' compensation system for the state, certifies and monitors the state's registered apprenticeship program, monitors compliance with labor laws, and tests and licenses boiler and high pressure piping workers and equipment.

Funding for OSHA Programs

Safe workplaces are an integral part of Minnesota's thriving business climate. The state of Minnesota successfully operates its own OSHA compliance program. The stability of the Minnesota OSHA compliance program depends on consistent federal funding for both state and federal OSHA programs.

OSHA Ergonomics Regulation

Federal OSHA published an Ergonomics Standard in November 2000. OSHA received numerous written comments in opposition, and lawsuits have been filed to overturn portions of or the entire standard. Much of the opposition is in response to the wage replacement elements that compete with state workers' compensation systems including Minnesota's Workers' Compensation program. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry supports the implementation of an amended ergonomic standard which does not compete with the states' workers' compensation program.

Whistleblower Regulations

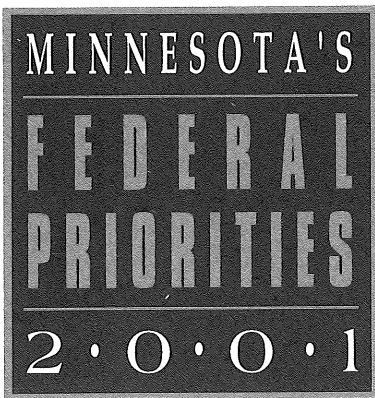
As Congress debates whistleblower legislation, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry will monitor proposals and provide information. Minnesota OSHA conducts safety and health 11(c) discrimination investigations in Minnesota and any whistleblower protection legislation will affect the Department of Labor and Industry's investigations.

Minimum Wage

Many congressional leaders expressed a desire to increase the minimum wage during the 106th Congress, but no such legislation was passed. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry will monitor debate surrounding a minimum wage increase during the 107th Congress and provide information on its effect on Minnesota.

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Governor Jesse Ventura appointed Ted Mondale as chair of the Metropolitan Council in February 1999. Mondale serves as vice president of strategic relations for Automatic Intuition. He is a former Minnesota state senator and candidate for governor. Mondale serves as a member of the Democratic Leadership Council, Public Policy Institute's New Economy Task Force and Alliance for Global Competitiveness. He is the author of the book, A New Commitment to Minnesota Families.

**Chair
Ted Mondale
Metropolitan Council**

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Metropolitan Council

The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization in the seven-county Twin Cities area. The council advocates smart growth for vital communities and a competitive region. It runs the regional transit system, collects and treats wastewater, oversees surface and groundwater management, plans regional parks and administers funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income families. Keeping the region economically competitive in the international marketplace is the goal of the Metropolitan Council. The council prepares long-range plans for the development of vital regional services – aviation, parks and open spaces, transportation, water quality and water management – and a big picture plan for how the region should grow in the future.

Growing Smart in Minnesota

Minnesota is growing and changing faster than it ever has before. Demographers predict that over 600,000 new people will move to the metropolitan area over the next 20 years. The Ventura administration urges Congress to consider the following federal programs that help Minnesota achieve the goal of growing smartly.

Transit

The Metropolitan Council received federal approval in January 2001 of a full-funding grant agreement of \$334,277,500 (including \$119 million previously appropriated by Congress) for the Hiawatha light rail corridor. The Hiawatha LRT Line will link downtown Minneapolis with the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and Mall of America. To maintain the construction schedule, the Metropolitan Council will be seeking a minimum of \$50 million from Congress in fiscal year 2002. In addition, the Metropolitan Council expects to request about \$44 million in discretionary federal dollars to buy buses and to build transit hubs, park-ride lots and other transit and transportation facilities.

Affordable Housing Programs

Adequate affordable housing in our urban areas will guide the growth of our metro area. Minnesota's metro areas currently suffer from a regional housing shortfall. The Ventura administration, led by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, urges Congress to provide additional federal matching funds for affordable housing production and preservation to state and local units of government.

Brownfield Pilot Program

The Twin Cities metropolitan area benefits from the Environmental Protection Agency's brownfield pilot programs, which help restore industrial sites and revitalize areas with historic infrastructure in a way that is complementary to smart growth. The Ventura administration urges Congress to authorize funding for cleanup as well as site investigation activities in these pilot programs.

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Blending Environmental Improvement and Development

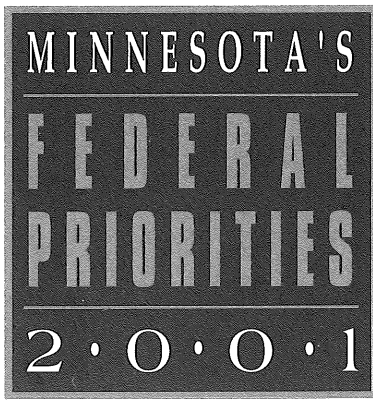
The Ventura administration urges continued federal support for programs such as the HUD Empowerment Zones and Community Development Block Grants. These programs help revitalize core areas and minimize sprawl.

Wastewater and Stormwater Funding

Minnesota benefits from the State Revolving Funds and the National Biosolids Program, which help maintain and improve water quality throughout the state and in metro areas. The Ventura administration urges continued federal support for these important programs.

Geospatial (GIS) Data Sharing

The Ventura administration urges the federal government to maintain funding for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure to help cities and counties use GIS data to evaluate growth decisions.



DEPARTMENT OF

Military Affairs

Major General Andreotti joined the Minnesota Air National Guard's 133rd Airlift Wing in 1965. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1966 and completed undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin AFB, Texas. His military duties have included squadron training officer, squadron mobility officer, squadron operations officer and wing safety officer. He commanded the 133rd Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and was serving as the 133rd Airlift Wing's deputy commander for maintenance when he was appointed adjutant general. He is also a rated pilot with more than 4,500 hours flying in various civilian and military aircraft.

**Adjutant General
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Minnesota Department of
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The Minnesota Department of Military Affairs is the headquarters of the Minnesota Army and Air National Guard, whose mission is to recruit and train a military force capable of accomplishing federal, state and community missions. Within the state, the 12,000 members of the Minnesota National Guard are available to support law enforcement agencies during natural disasters and other emergencies. The Minnesota National Guard has a sizable presence in 61 communities across the state, providing an extremely flexible response capability.

Improvements in Duluth

The 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth requires modern aircraft and base improvements in order to remain a viable part of the Air National Guard. Failure to upgrade the unit threatens both employment opportunities in the region and the base's very existence. The Department of Military Affairs urges Congress to authorize phased improvements to the aircraft as well as funds for military construction for the Air National Guard in Duluth.

Organizational Maintenance Shop Upgrade

The Organizational Maintenance Shop facilities, located in New Brighton, are severely overcrowded, substandard and fail to comply with many safety standards. Overall deficiencies threaten equipment maintenance, soldier training and overall readiness. The Department of Military Affairs encourages Congress to authorize and appropriate funds for OMS upgrades, and to direct that the Department of Defense design and construct the project.

Stillwater Training and Community Center

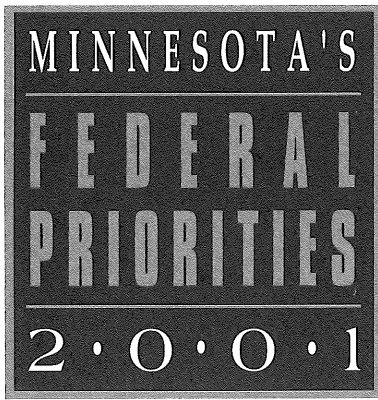
The 1st Brigade uses facilities constructed in Stillwater, Minnesota in 1922, which have seriously deteriorated, are code deficient in many areas, and functionally insufficient to carryout its mission. The Department of Military Affairs recommends Congress authorize \$5.4 million to construct a new 39,918 square foot facility that supports the brigade's needs and enhances the overall Stillwater community.

Military Construction Funds

Over the past decade, federal funding for military construction (MILCON) has declined, while the missions of the Army National Guard have increased. The Department of Military Affairs urges Congress to authorize and appropriate additional military construction funding, bringing the funding level to \$500 million.

Real Property Operations & Maintenance

Real Property Operations and Maintenance (RPOM) accounts, used to repair and maintain the Guard's facilities, have declined in recent years. This decline has greatly affected the Guard's ability to maintain facilities. The Department of Military Affairs urges Congress to provide full funding for RPOM.



OFFICE OF

Minnesota Planning

Minnesota Planning provides timely and accurate information on critical issues to policy-makers and the public. Among the agency's resources:

- The State Demographic Center provides yearly estimates and long-range projections of Minnesota's population. The center analyzes and distributes data from the U.S. Census Bureau and other sources. The center maintains a helpline at 651-296-2557.
- The Land Management Information Center offers services to improve the effective use of geographic information in Minnesota. The center develops and integrates data, and provides a single point of contact for geographic data.
- The Criminal Justice Statistics Center collects criminal and juvenile justice information, conducts research and maintains databases for policy development. Partially funded by the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, the center maintains a helpline for criminal justice information and statistics at 651-296-4852.
- The Environmental Quality Board responds to key environmental issues in the state, providing appropriate review and coordination, serving as a public forum and developing long-range strategies to enhance the environment.

In addition, the agency has teams focused on critical issues, municipal boundary adjustments and local planning assistance.

Redistricting

The state legislature has the responsibility to draw new congressional and legislative district boundaries and submit them to the Governor for his signature. This administration has been taking a proactive approach in working with legislative leadership from the outset to ensure that the state's redistricting activities are carried out accurately, fairly and efficiently. For the first time in the state's history, the Governor has appointed a citizen commission to assist in developing guidelines and standards for the adoption of the new congressional and legislative plans. The statutory deadline for completion of the redistricting process is March 19, 2002. The first election to be held using the new districts will be the 2002 state primary on September 10.

GIS Technology Funding

Minnesota Planning plays an important role in coordinating the state's development of geographic information technology. With advice and support from the Governor's Council on Geographic Information, the agency monitors federal programs involving investments in geospatial data and technology, development and implementation of data standards, and legislation affecting access, protection and cost-recovery for geographic data. Minnesota Planning supports continued funding to develop the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and the Nationwide Differential Global Positioning System. Funding for the new NASA initiative, *Opportunities for State, Local, Regional and Tribal*

Dean Barkley was appointed director of Minnesota Planning in January 1999. A leader of the Minnesota Independence Party, Barkley ran for the U.S. House in 1992 and the U.S. Senate in 1994 and 1996. An attorney since 1977, he practiced law before coming to Minnesota Planning. He is also a director of the Minnesota Compact, which advocates clean campaigns, and has been a director of Common Cause, a nonprofit organization dedicated to open government.

Director Dean Barkley Minnesota Planning

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FEBRUARY 2001

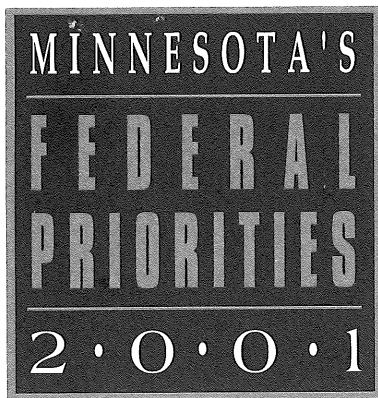
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Governments to Utilize NASA and Commercially Developed Data and Capabilities in Operations and Decision Support, is also important to Minnesota.

Resources

Minnesota Planning has a variety of resources available, both online and by phone, that may be of interest to policy-makers at the federal level. The agency's Web site at www.mnplan.state.mn.us maintains a wealth of information, including:

- **Minnesota Demographics.** Current and past years estimates by race, age and income. This includes household, population and labor force breakdowns for counties, cities and townships from 1960 to 1998.
- **Criminal Justice Profiles.** Data collected on criminal offenses, arrests and apprehensions, justice system expenditures and probation cases.
- **Datanet.** An online information system, with mapping capability, consisting of statistical information on social, economic and demographic conditions in Minnesota.
- **Children's Report Card.** Online data measuring 26 social and economic conditions for youth.



DEPARTMENT OF

Natural Resources

Before his appointment as commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, Allen Garber was the Champlin, Minnesota Chief of Police from 1993 to 1999. Previously, Garber worked as a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In 1992, Garber organized the first Minnesota Fugitive Task Force, an organization that helped to locate and arrest more than 200 violent criminals. Garber holds a political science degree from Rutgers University in New Jersey, and a master's degree in public administration from Mankato State University.

**Commissioner Allen Garber
Minnesota Department of
Natural Resources**

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The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has broad responsibilities in the management and protection of the state's diverse natural resources. These resources include 16.65 million acres of forest land, 15,293 lakes, tens of thousands of miles of rivers, thousands of acres of wetlands, native prairie, diverse game animals, prized game fish, rare plant and animal species, and rich mineral deposits. The DNR directly manages 66 state parks, 57 state forests, 1,300 wildlife management areas, three state recreation areas and hundreds of areas for camping, hiking, snowmobiling and other outdoor recreation. The DNR staff works in partnership with constituents to manage the state's ecosystems, with the vision that maintaining a sustainable quality of life is a shared responsibility of all citizens, as well as public and private organizations.

Conservation and Reinvestment Act

The DNR strongly urges the 107th Congress to pass a more robust version of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act than the substitute appropriations of the 106th Congress. Such legislation would recognize the state's conservation needs and provide critical funding to a range of conservation and outdoor recreation programs, including protection of the North Shore of Lake Superior and enhancement of Minnesota's parks, recreation areas and fish and wildlife resources. In addition to fully funding state-level programs, it is important that Congress recognize that CARA directly supports local conservation efforts, such as fully funding the county payment in lieu of taxes, to offset the loss in local tax bases due to federal land ownership.

2002 Farm Bill/Conservation Provisions

Reauthorization of the Farm Bill in 2002, and such conservation provisions as: Conservation Reserve Program; Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program; Wetlands Reserve Program; Environmental Quality Incentives Program; and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program will have a direct impact on the way Minnesota manages natural resources on private lands. Strong consideration should be given to linking conservation requirements to income protection payments that are received by private landowners. The DNR believes that protecting a producer or landowner's income while also requiring natural resource protection is an important balance to be struck in this type of legislation.

School Trust Fund Land and Federal Inventoried Roadless Areas

Minnesota has not been able to fulfill its fiduciary obligations with respect to managing the nearly 100,000 acres of state School Trust Fund lands in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Wilderness, due to significant federal land use restrictions. The DNR supports the ability of the school trust to receive user fees revenue proportionate to the state land portion of the BWCAW, and backs a land exchange for lands outside the wilderness area in order to accomplish the goals for which these lands were specially designated. In addition, Minnesota is very concerned about the effects of the USDA Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation rule on the state's ability to effectively manage the 9,800 acres of school trust and acquired lands within the inventoried roadless areas in Minnesota. The DNR advocates a land exchange of federal IRAs beginning in 2001 to address this issue.

Other Federal Rules Affecting State Forestry and Land Management

The Minnesota DNR is concerned about federal rules being promulgated by the EPA and U.S. Forest Service, including national forest transportation policy which could significantly impact access to state lands, as well as TMDL/NPDES changes that would impact silvicultural activities by classifying them as potential point sources of pollution.

Reauthorization of National Invasive Species Act

Reauthorization of the 1996 National Invasive Species Act during the 107th Congress is strongly supported by the Minnesota DNR. The legislation includes provisions such as ballast water regulations, grants for state and interstate comprehensive management plans for aquatic nuisance species, and other issues of importance to our natural resources. Minnesota is currently drafting a policy position paper on ballast water management issues in conjunction with the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, which will provide further detail on the importance of this program in protecting broad areas of our natural resource base.

Federal Water Programs and Projects

The DNR advocates continued federal funding of several ongoing Minnesota flood control studies and projects, including those in East Grand Forks, Crookston, Stillwater, Ada, Breckenridge, Dawson, Granite Falls, Montevideo and Warren. Federal resources have proven invaluable in helping communities improve flood plain mapping and cooperative flood mitigation efforts in the Red River Valley Basin. Minnesota also supports ongoing federal subsidies for water resource programs such as the U.S. Geological Survey's cooperative stream gauging program and FEMA's national dam safety program. The DNR recommends dam rehabilitation funding be appropriated at levels consistent with the 2000 Water Resources Development Act.

Opposition to the Dakota Water Resources Act

The state of Minnesota remains opposed to the exorbitant Garrison Diversion project in North Dakota included within the Dakota Water Resources Act. The proposal, which was authorized by the 106th Congress, is an enormous diversion of Missouri River water to eastern North Dakota that could result in significant negative environmental repercussions on Minnesota's waterways. The Ventura administration opposes the funding of this project in the 107th Congress.

Fire Suppression in Northeastern Minnesota

Areas of the Gunflint Corridor and the adjacent BWCAW remain under the likely threat of a devastating future wildfire resulting from July 1999 windstorms that flattened vast acres of forestland. Expedient action by and coordination with the USDA's Forest Service is imperative during 2001 to lower the risk of wildfire, through reduced fuel loading and other fire prevention and public safety efforts.

Forestry Budget Issues

The DNR supports the recommendations of the National Research Council regarding supplemental funding initiatives seeking to reduce forest parcelization, and threats to community forests from insects, disease and natural disasters. The council advocates corrective actions be taken to address the diminished federal investment in the nation's private forests.

Mining Reclamation Laws and Iron Range Reclamation Water Management

The DNR opposes legislation that would superimpose federal oversight of old abandoned mines, and urges Congress to consider the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences regarding mining reclamation. The DNR recommends a cooperative program with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to control and manage water accumulating in several abandoned mine pits in Northern Minnesota that could devastate downstream communities and natural resources.

Delisting the Grey Wolf from the Threatened Species List in Minnesota

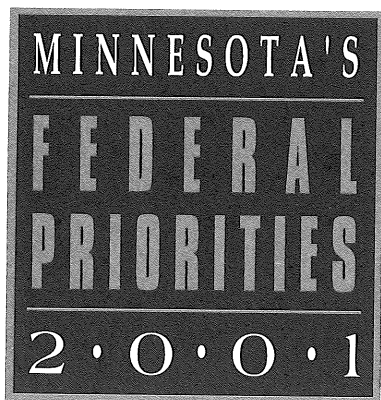
Minnesota will submit its wolf management plan to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2001. The management plan, when implemented, will assure the continued survival of wolves in Minnesota and provide our necessary commitment to begin the delisting process for grey wolves in Minnesota. The DNR urges support and encouragement for the delisting during the federal rulemaking process.

Boating Safety Grant Funding

Boating safety grants, which result from federal fuel taxes on motorboats, support education, enforcement, registration and titling, public access, aids to navigation, and administration of the program in Minnesota. Currently the grants are funded through a default mechanism in the TEA-21 Act at \$59 million per year. The Minnesota DNR urges full federal funding of \$70 million per year for the remainder of the act in fiscal years 2002 and 2003.

Red River State Recreation Area

The Minnesota DNR partners with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the recreation area project located in the Red River floodplain and strongly supports continued involvement and funding by the USFWS for the visitor's center and related public information and education programs.



MINNESOTA

Pollution Control Agency

Karen Studders was appointed commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency by Governor Jesse Ventura in March 1999.

Studders has more than 20 years of experience in environmental and energy issues, including compliance and permitting, agency negotiations and complex environmental litigation.

She spent most of her career in the private sector with Reliant Energy-Minnegasco, including several years as the director of environmental programs. She started her career at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Research Laboratory in Duluth, Minnesota. Studders has a bachelor's degree in chemistry with a minor in biology from the College of St. Catherine and a law degree from William Mitchell College of Law.

Commissioner Karen Studders Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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The people of Minnesota have entrusted the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) with the protection of Minnesota's water, air and land. Toward that end, the MPCA strives to engage in partnerships with other stewards of Minnesota's environment. The MPCA works at being efficient, effective flexible and creative in performing its mission of protecting the environment and serving the public. Its four main goals are: fishable and swimmable lakes and rivers; clean air; uncontaminated groundwater and land; and healthy ecosystems. In order to meet these goals, the MPCA operates state and federal programs in the areas of water quality, air quality, hazardous waste, solid waste, cleanup programs (such as Superfund), as well as programs that focus on pollution prevention.

Preventing Air Pollution

Because Minnesota meets federal air quality standards, the state is not eligible for federal funding aimed at eliminating or preventing air pollution. The Ventura administration urges Congress to broaden the eligibility requirements, provide incentives for states to prevent air pollution and adjust federal formulas to recognize the benefits of mass transit and smart growth projects.

Multi-Pollutant Strategies to Address Electrical Power Utilities Emissions

Currently, several uncoordinated actions are being undertaken to address many serious pollution problems relating to electricity generation with many more strategies likely to follow. If these actions continue without careful coordination, the reliability of the nation's electrical supply system may be threatened. The Ventura administration urges Congress to develop an integrated strategy on electrical power utilities emissions (such as fine particulate matter, ozone, acid rain, mercury and greenhouse gases), either through reauthorization of the Clean Air Act or through separate legislation.

Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico

The Pollution Control Agency is a member of a national task force that submitted a plan to the President and Congress addressing gulf hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. Nutrients (primarily nitrogen) from agricultural and many other sources in the Midwest are contributing to the hypoxia problem – oxygen levels too low to sustain most aquatic life. The MPCA urges its federal partners to ensure this issue is dealt with by setting sound nutrient usage goals, and by relying on federal, state and local partnerships for implementation over the next five years.

Total Maximum Daily Loads

The federal TMDL program is based on the identification of impaired water bodies. Increased funding should be provided to states and the U. S. Geological Survey to enhance and maintain key water monitoring stations so that sufficient, accurate data is available for sound management decisions. The Ventura administration seeks additional federal funding for Minnesota to administer and complete this under-funded mandate of the Clean Water Act. The MPCA recommends that Congress direct the EPA to coordinate development of TMDLs for regional atmospheric sources of pollutants and provide more state flexibility in the new TMDL rules.

Reauthorization of the Clean Water Act

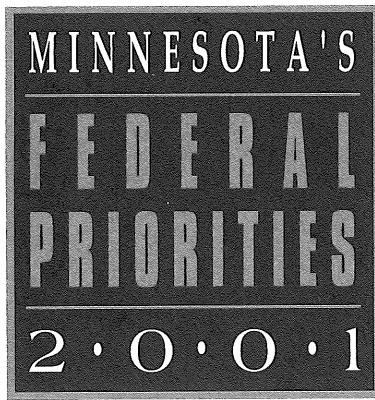
The Pollution Control Agency urges Congress to reauthorize the federal Clean Water Act with increased funding to states for implementation of nonpoint source pollution programs. The MPCA also recommends Congress extend NPDES permit time frames from five years and reissue only when environmental standards or needs dictate, providing states administrative flexibility in managing their water resources.

Regulating Feedlots

The Ventura administration is working to implement newly revised state feedlot rules that further EPA's objectives for controlling pollution from confined animal feeding operations. The EPA has recently proposed sweeping changes to the regulations of animal feeding operations, which would broaden their scope and make requirements more stringent. Ventura administration agencies are working together on review of this regulatory proposal and will be supplying additional specific comments.

Environmental Innovation Flexibility for States

The Ventura administration urges Congress to provide the EPA with the authority to enter into agreements with states to test regulatory flexibility and innovation. This will improve environmental performance and reduce administrative burdens on states and regulated parties (for example, moving from command and control to performance-based evaluations).



DEPARTMENT OF

Public Safety

Charles R. "Charlie" Weaver was the first cabinet member appointed by Governor Jesse Ventura in December 1998. Weaver was a criminal prosecutor in Anoka County for seven years before serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1988 until 1998. He is a member of the Minnesota Special Olympics Board and a former member of the Anoka Rotary, the Minnesota American Red Cross Board, the Minnesota Justice Foundation, the Crime Victim Witness Advisory Council and the Anoka American Cancer Society Board. Weaver received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Oregon and a law degree from the University of Minnesota.

Commissioner Charlie Weaver Minnesota Department of Public Safety

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The Minnesota Department of Public Safety coordinates and directs the functions and services of the state relating to the safety and convenience of its citizens. The department is an enforcement, licensing and services agency which develops and operates programs in the areas of law enforcement, traffic safety, alcohol and gambling, fire safety, driver and vehicle licensing, emergency management and public safety information.

Criminal Justice Information System Integration

During the 2000 state legislative session, Minnesota continued its efforts to create a statewide-integrated criminal justice information system (CrimNet) by appropriating \$13.8 million for new technology. The state has also developed an integration model that will allow information to be exchanged between 1,100 criminal justice entities in Minnesota, and those at the federal level, which will ultimately better ensure public safety. This collaborative effort between local, state and federal agencies, needs adequate funding from all levels to be successful. The state of Minnesota, led by the departments of Public Safety, Administration and Corrections, urges Congress to help fund Minnesota's continued efforts to integrate criminal data to improve the safety of our citizens.

Prevention and Management of Disasters

The Department of Public Safety works collaboratively with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the management of declared disasters in Minnesota, and urges Congress to provide level funding for state and local emergency management programs, and to avoid shifting the entire costs of disasters to state and local jurisdictions. The department also advises FEMA to exercise fairness to all citizens affected by disasters, regardless of state borders.

Limit Hours of Service

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety, in conjunction with the Minnesota State Patrol, support capping service time for truck drivers at 14 hours.

Institute Incentive-Based Programs in Place of Sanction-Based Federal Programs

The Department of Public Safety supports implementation of federal incentive-based programs as opposed to those that are sanction-based. Minnesota currently stands to be sanctioned millions of dollars because of noncompliance with guidelines affecting the Byrne Memorial Grant Funds. The Department of Public Safety urges Congress to limit guidelines on funding so that states can decide how to best match criminal justice policies with local needs.

State Regulation of Internet Gambling and Liquor Sales

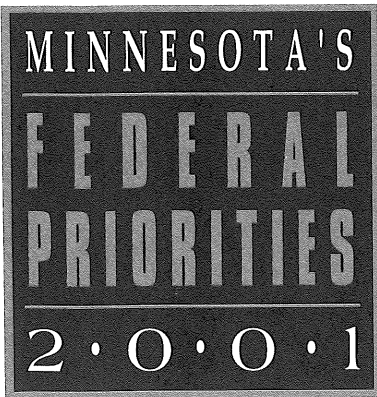
The Department of Public Safety urges Congress to enable states to retain the authority to regulate both Internet gambling and Internet liquor sales and distribution.

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Issuance of INS Identification Documents to Refugees upon Entry to the U.S.

The Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services Division has shown increased workloads as a result of the vast numbers of refugees who, though resettled by the U.S. government, do not arrive with secure identity documents which qualify them for driver's licenses and or state identifications. The Department of Public Safety supports a proposal by the Minnesota branch of the Immigration and Naturalization Service that calls for identity and employment authorization documents, such as I-688B or I-766 cards, to be issued to refugees either at the port of entry or by a consulate prior to entry into the United States.



DEPARTMENT OF

Revenue

Matt Smith was appointed commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Revenue by Governor Jesse Ventura in January 1999. Prior to his appointment as commissioner, Smith served in the Department of Revenue for 13 years, most recently as deputy commissioner. He has a master's degree in agricultural economics and served as an economist with USDA prior to joining the department.

Commissioner Matt Smith Minnesota Department of Revenue

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The Department of Revenue manages more than \$13.3 billion dollars in revenue collected through a variety of taxes. The department also works with local governments in managing a \$4.7 billion property tax system. The vision of the Department of Revenue is to ensure that everyone is paying what is owed to the state, no more or no less; and that the revenue system is fair, efficient, reliable, competitive and understandable in structure and operation.

Internet Taxation

The state of Minnesota supports ongoing efforts of the states to adopt a streamlined sales tax system to promote uniformity in the administration of the sales tax. This proposal would make the tax system simpler and easier for taxpayers to understand. States supported elements of Senator Byron Dorgan's Internet Simplification and Equity introduced during the 106th Congress. Minnesota opposes efforts by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform States Laws to act as gatekeepers between the states and Congress on this issue. States have viewed this as an intrusion on state sovereignty and will continue to work with Senator Dorgan and others to bring together some agreement prior to the expiration of the Internet Tax Freedom Act in October 2001.

Abusive Tax Shelters

In October 2000, the Senate Finance Committee released a bipartisan legislative proposal to revise the definition of tax shelters, and to create a special class of "highly abusive tax shelters," defining those that lack economic substance or a material non-tax business purpose, which would be subject to strict liability penalties. Penalties assessed upon taxpayers that participate in tax shelter operations would be the same regardless of whether the taxpayer is an individual, corporation or other form of participant. The proposal outlined a new set of ethics rules which would allow the Treasury to impose monetary sanctions against tax advisors who participate in highly abusive tax shelter activities. The Minnesota Department of Revenue strongly supports efforts to curb abusive tax shelters.

Bankruptcy Reform

There are a number of tax-related provisions related to bankruptcy reform legislation. Some provisions would give states greater leverage into recovering taxes from debtors, and in several instances, elevate states to a higher status of priority claim during the bankruptcy process. The Minnesota Department of Revenue supports any efforts to increase the state's ability to settle bad debts and place higher priority on state tax debts.

Deregulation of Telecommunications, Electric Energy and Financial Institutions

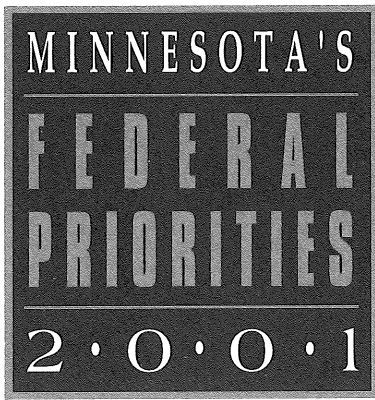
Minnesota, like many states, is facing the challenge of rapidly deregulating industries and new ways of conducting commerce. The department anticipates continuing efforts by certain industries to look to Congress to intercede or intervene through mandates, moratoriums or other legislation that challenges state sovereignty in collecting taxes. Telecommunication, electric utilities, and financial and insurance institutions are all going through major transformations that increase challenges by states to apply taxes fairly and equitably between multi-jurisdictional boundaries.

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Foreign Sales Corporations

Foreign Sales Corporations allow U.S. companies to reduce income tax, by utilizing special foreign tax credits, up to 15 percent by exporting goods through export subsidiaries. Last spring the European Union, through the World Trade Organization, declared these FSCs to be in violation of the WTO trade guidelines and threatened trade sanctions if Congress did not amend the law. On November 14, 2000, Congress amended IRC Sections 921 through 927 and the bill was sent to and signed by the President. Since many corporations in Minnesota and other nondomiciled taxpayers take advantage of the FSC law, the Minnesota Department of Revenue will be monitoring this situation closely and its impact on the state.



DEPARTMENT OF

Transportation

Governor Ventura appointed Elwyn Tinklenberg commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation in January 1999. Tinklenberg has been involved in transportation policy for more than 13 years. He directed a transportation-consulting firm where he worked to secure transportation improvements throughout the state, studied the feasibility of commuter rail projects and appropriate commuter rail corridors. From 1991 to 1997, Tinklenberg was the manager of public services for Anoka County. He served as mayor of Blaine from 1986 until 1996. Since 1996, Tinklenberg has served as a board and executive committee member of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance and served as its past president in 1998.

Commissioner El Tinklenberg Minnesota Department of Transportation

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The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) was established to provide a balanced transportation system, including aeronautics, highways, motor carriers, ports, public transit, railroads and pipelines for the state of Minnesota. Mn/DOT functions as the principle agency for the development and coordination of state transportation policies, plans and programs. The mission of Mn/DOT is to develop a coordinated transportation network by preserving, managing and improving the state's highway system; promoting and supporting the transit, air, rail, waterways, bicycle and pedestrian systems; promoting non-travel alternatives; and promoting and supporting connections among transportation systems.

Commuter Rail

Several county rail authorities are developing commuter rail corridor plans to serve the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Minnesota state statute dictates that Mn/DOT apply for all federal funding for these activities on behalf of the corridor development groups. The North Star, Red Rock, Central and Dan Patch corridors are continuing to advance through various stages of development that will require federal funding to continue efforts toward implementation. Mn/DOT urges Congress to support federal funding for the implementation of these commuter rail systems.

Midwest Regional Rail Initiative

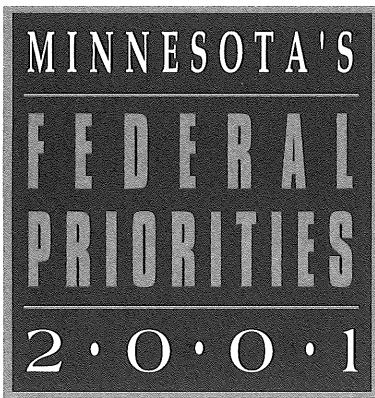
Mn/DOT is working in partnership with eight other Midwestern states to develop a regional passenger rail service that would reduce travel times, improve service and provide a modal option for travel from urban center to urban center within the Midwest. Mn/DOT urges Congress to support full funding of the TEA-21 high-speed rail development program and to support proposed high-speed rail capital funding efforts in the 107th Congress, ultimately to provide for future development of the MWRRRI.

Intelligent Transportation Systems

Federal funding supports a variety of advanced technology applications used to improve the safety and efficiency of the state's transportation system. Mn/DOT has requested approximately \$12 million per year in funding for the state's Intelligent Transportation System program in recent years; for fiscal year 2001, Congress provided \$7 million for the ITS program in Minnesota. Continued support from Minnesota's congressional delegation for ITS program deployment, testing and research is essential in maintaining Mn/DOT's role as a national leader in transportation innovation and application.

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DEPARTMENT OF

Trade & Economic Development

Gerald "Jerry" Carlson was appointed commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Trade & Economic Development in January 1999. Prior to his appointment, Carlson had a 32-year career with Ecolab, as a senior executive. His knowledge of global markets has played a key role in shaping the Ventura administration's strategy for making Minnesota a world-class competitor. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Minnesota State University in Mankato.

Note: Commissioner Carlson resigned his position on February 26, 2001 and a search for his replacement is currently underway.

Commissioner Gerald Carlson Department of Trade & Economic Development

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The purpose of the Department of Trade & Economic Development is to advance the economic vitality of Minnesota. The department employs all available resources to generate high quality jobs; stimulate workforce development; expand Minnesota exports; and encourage domestic and international travel within Minnesota. Within the department, business and community programs facilitate the growth of existing Minnesota communities, businesses and economic professionals.

International Trade with Minnesota

Free and fair trade will be the true engine of future economic growth in Minnesota. Our federal partners should continue to look for ways to open foreign markets to Minnesota's products, essential to the state's export success. The Ventura administration urges Congress to give the President fast-track trade negotiating authority, enforce existing trade agreements and let Minnesota compete on the world stage.

Reauthorization of the Clean Water Act

Federal loan matches for wastewater and drinking water revolving loan funds are essential for maintaining environmental protection and rural economic growth. The Ventura administration, along with local units of government, urges Congress to reauthorize the state revolving loan funds in the Clean Water Act. In addition, the Ventura administration urges Congress to extend the duration of wastewater discharge permits from five to 10 years.

Workforce Development

The Department of Trade & Economic Development urges Congress to provide more flexibility in the delivery of federal workforce programs. The Ventura administration further recommends Congress allow for broader use of H1-B visa program grants enabling corporate entities to hire temporary foreign workers.

Industrial Site Cleanup

The state of Minnesota spends more than \$20 million in grants for each budget year to clean up contaminated industrial sites in Minnesota. The U.S. EPA provides loans for these purposes, however communities are unable to use these funds because the projects do not generate sufficient revenues to repay additional debt. The Ventura administration urges the EPA to convert its environmental cleanup loan programs to grant programs, even if this means reducing funding to make financial assistance available to sites in need.

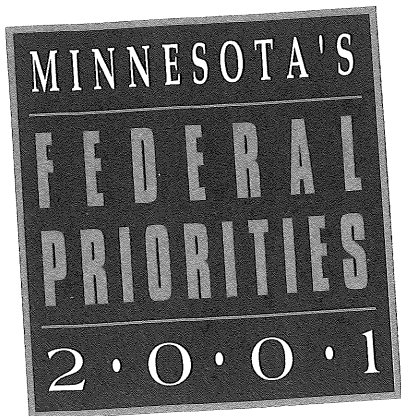
Promoting Tourism in Minnesota

The Ventura administration urges Congress to help promote Minnesota's tourism industry by eliminating barriers to international travel and funding national tourism efforts to keep the United States competitive in the global marketplace. Congress should repeal the Passenger Services Act of 1886 to promote the development of the Great Lakes cruise industry and make travel and tourism a strategic economic development priority by identifying it clearly in the U.S. System of National Accounts. Federal

support for Minnesota's transportation infrastructure, enhancements to our park and recreation areas and efforts that protect our precious natural resources will help keep Minnesota one of the most attractive destinations in the country.

Arbitrage Rebate Reform

The Ventura administration is requesting that section 148, subsection (a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 be amended to exclude certain amounts derived from the term "proceeds." These would be any funds from federal grants and related state matches made in connection with any revolving funds established in accordance with Title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Section 1452 of the Federal Drinking Water Act. Interest earnings from these funds are required to be used for eligible activities under the related acts and should not be rebated back to the federal government, especially in light of the looming infrastructure crisis.



DEPARTMENT OF

Veterans Affairs

Governor Ventura appointed Jeff Olson as commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs in January 2001. He had served as deputy commissioner of the department since 1983. Previously, Olson was Washington County veterans service officer, assistant director of the University of Minnesota Veterans Employment and Training Service, and was on active duty in the United States Army in the 1970s.

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The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs serves Minnesota veterans and their dependents and survivors in securing benefits provided by state and federal law. This mission is very important to more than 437,000 veterans and their eligible family members, a total of nearly one million Minnesotans. Today's Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs has developed programs to meet the changing needs of the new generation of veterans. Working in concert with veteran's service organizations throughout the state, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs represents and advocates for those who have taken time from their lives to serve in the armed forces in support of their state and country.

Funding for Veterans Medical Centers

Current fiscal year appropriations are insufficient to meet the current demand for medical services of our nation's veterans at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers. This deficiency does not include funding for any new programs or new veteran clientele. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs supports supplemental federal funding from the 107th Congress that ensures distribution of funds to USDVA medical centers prior to any reduction in services.

Medicare Subvention

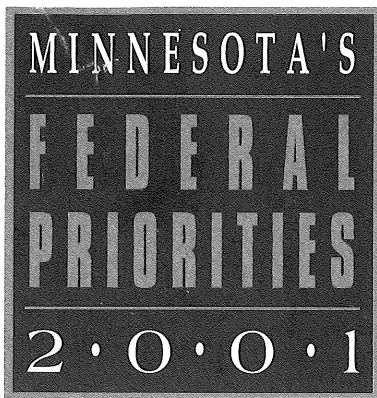
Currently, Medicare-eligible veterans are treated in USDVA medical centers, but Medicare payments cannot be collected and retained at these centers. If federal law allowed USDVA medical centers to retain these funds, more veterans could be served at the centers and at outpatient clinics closer to their homes. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs supports passage of Medicare subvention during the 107th Congress.

Hepatitis C

The USDVA recently estimated that 10 to 20 percent of the veteran population has contracted hepatitis C, compared to only 2 percent of the general population. The circumstances of military training and combat activities in locations around the world offer many opportunities for contact with this easily transmitted blood-borne virus, which can have potentially fatal long-term health consequences. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs advocates federal funding to ensure that veterans are provided medical screening and treatment programs, and that regulations be developed to accept hepatitis C as a presumptive disease for service-connected disability compensation.

FEBRUARY 2001

Upon request, copies of *Minnesota's Federal Priorities 2001* will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print or audio tape.



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