

WEST CENTRAL TRIBUNE *Online*

Editorial: Kudos for courage on bill veto override

West Central Tribune - 02/27/2008

With courage and forethought, the Minnesota Legislature made the decision Monday to override Gov. Tim Pawlenty's veto of the transportation bill.

It was the correct decision for Minnesota's citizens, businesses and, especially, its infrastructure.

Most importantly, it broke the political logjam on transportation that has hamstrung this state for decades and will take time to recover from.

This transportation package is a major step toward consistent long-term funding for all sectors throughout the state.

There is a lot of credit to go around for passage of the transportation bill.

- The Minnesota House leadership of DFL House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher and her team worked hard to help craft this bill, assure its passage and get the necessary votes in the House to override Pawlenty's override.

- The six minority representatives in the House, including Rep. Bud Heidgerken, R-Freeport, and the two minority senators, Sens. Steve Dille, R-Dassel, and Dennis Fredrickson, R-New Ulm, displayed remarkable wisdom and courage in voting to override the Pawlenty transportation veto. Some of these elected officials were threatened with political retribution by their respective caucuses and party officials if they voted for the veto.

- Minnesota businesses — individually and through the leadership of the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and Minnesota Chamber of Commerce — for supporting the transportation package. Many business leaders around the state — from former and current CEOs to small business leaders — have spoken up supporting this package.

The investment will repair and build roads, bridges, and transit projects around the state. Fortunately, this critical investment was not short-circuited by shortsighted politics as it had been over the past 20 years.