



— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*  
John Hoeven  
*Governor*

May 2, 2003

The Honorable Janet Wentz  
Speaker of the House  
House Chambers  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Item Veto of HB 1015

Dear Madam Speaker:

Today I have signed HB 1015, but vetoed section 15 of the bill. The section provides that any vacancy, which occurs through retirement or resignation in the Oil and Gas Division or the Geological Survey, must remain vacant for the biennium. It provides no flexibility or management discretion to the Industrial Commission, which manages both agencies.

I recognize the Legislature's direction that the two agencies be consolidated during the biennium, and understand the desire to reduce employees. It is a goal that I can support, provided it is done in an appropriate manner, and will provide more efficient services to the people of North Dakota. We can accomplish the Legislature's goal administratively and in a much less disruptive manner. For these reasons, I have vetoed Section 15.

Sincerely,  
/S/  
John Hoeven  
Governor