



Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Boulevard

Saint Paul, MN 55155

August 12, 2010

TO: CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE
RE: CAMPAIGN SIGNS ON RIGHTS-OF-WAY

This letter is to remind you that state law prohibits the placement, painting, printing, or affixing of advertisements on any object within the limits of any highway in Minnesota. This prohibition in Minnesota Statutes, Section 160.27, applies to political campaign signs as well as to all other forms of advertising. The law applies to all state, county, city and township roads and highways.

In addition, the Minnesota Outdoor Advertising Control Act (Minnesota Statutes, Section 173.15) prohibits erecting advertising devices:

- on private land without the consent of the owner or occupant;
- on public utility poles;
- on trees or shrubs; or
- by painting or drawing on rocks or natural features.

The Federal Highway Administration office in Minnesota monitors Minnesota's compliance with federal highway beautification laws. State transportation employees are responsible for administering these laws on state highways and must remove signs that violate the laws. County, city, and township employees administer these laws on their roads.

Since political campaign workers may not be familiar with the laws, please distribute this information to those placing signs on your behalf. Local Mn/DOT offices should be contacted for assistance when signs are being placed where the specific highway right-of-way cannot be clearly identified. When improperly placed signs are removed by department employees, every effort will be made to temporarily store the sign and to notify the candidate so that the signs can be retrieved by the candidate or the candidate's workers.

I sincerely request your cooperation in seeing that your campaign workers are knowledgeable about these laws. Department employees will make every effort to be fair and impartial in administering the law so that all advertisers can expect equal treatment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas K. Sorel".

Thomas K. Sorel
Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

