



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

**Doug Burgum**  
*Governor*

May 1, 2017

Honorable Brent Sanford  
President of the Senate  
North Dakota Senate  
North Dakota State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear President Sanford,

Pursuant to Article V, Section 9 of the North Dakota Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 2119, a bill related to certain Job Service North Dakota properties.

Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Senate Bill 2119 detail specific lease prices, building sale prices, preference for specific lessees and purchasers of state owned buildings. Before any sale or lease of state property, a transparent, arm's length offering of any vacant space should be considered rather than pre-specifying occupants. Further, a thorough analysis of these buildings, fair market lease and sale valuations, and applicable state and federal statutes should be completed versus pre-determining lease or sale price.

The responsibility for execution and administration of state business lies exclusively within the executive branch of state government. N.D. Const. art. V. Each state agency, through its elected or appointed executive officer, is charged with administering the business of that agency. This responsibility includes the location of its staff and use of its location(s) to optimize value to North Dakota taxpayers.

Our office will instruct Job Service North Dakota, in cooperation with Office of Management and Budget, to proceed with a thorough, comprehensive, transparent, economic study of Job Service locations. We will seek the input of other state agencies, including the Attorney General's office, regarding space needs and potential savings as a part of this study and will consider them as potential tenants for all vacant space.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Burgum".

Doug Burgum  
Governor