



March 8, 2012

The Honorable Mary Kiffmeyer
Minnesota State Representative
501 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1206

The Honorable Terri Bonoff
Minnesota State Senator
133 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1206

Dear Representative Kiffmeyer and Senator Bonoff:

In its ***Findings and Recommendations*** report issued on January 31, 2012, the Minnesota Sunset Advisory Commission requested that the Minnesota Department of Administration (Admin) and the Office of Legislative Auditor (OLA) “conduct a program and financial review [on the Combative Sports Commission] and report on the feasibility of a merger with the Amateur Sports Commission, forming a Minnesota Sports Commission that includes functions of both entities.”

In fulfilling this request, staff from the OLA and Admin met to determine the parameters and roles of each agency for the research. The OLA routinely conducts program evaluation as part of its services to the Legislature and volunteered to review available material, conduct select interviews, and draft the feasibility study report. Admin provided budget and human resource data for the two entities and documented their utilization of the Small Agency Resource Team (SmART) services. Our work with the OLA was a positive consultative process and, although Admin contributed data and reviewed the final draft, the ultimate feasibility study is an OLA product.

The OLA study is a well-reasoned analysis outlining the challenges in merging the Amateur Sports Commission and the Combative Sports Commission due to their differing missions and operations. The former serves as a booster for the state’s amateur sports while the latter performs a regulatory function. To fulfill their core missions, the commissions appear to have little duplicative overlap in staff duties. Admin agrees with the consideration that there is likely to be little substantive savings for the state in such a merger.

As the report indicates, further analysis of these agencies' functions would be treated as separate from this review and may require a dedicated staff effort. To the extent that Admin would be involved in subsequent reorganization orders, we would involve the Governor, Legislature, and affected agencies as required in Admin's reorganization authority (M.S. §16B.37).

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's comments on this matter and I look forward to the on-going dialogue as the Sunset Advisory Commission continues its work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Spencer Cronk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Spencer Cronk
Commissioner

Cc: Representative King Banian
Representative Joyce Peppin
Senator Paul Gazelka
Matt Entenza
Javier Morillo
Greg Hubinger

Representative Michael Nelson
Senator Ted Daley
Senator Mike Parry
Sharon Erickson Ropes
Ruth Orrick