

MEMORANDUM

May 5, 2021

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen
Senator Carrie Ruud
Senator Justin Eichorn
Senator David Tomassoni
Senator Torrey Westrom

Representative Rick Hansen
Representative Ami Wazlawik
Representative Kelly Morrison
Representative Peter Fischer
Representative Josh Heintzeman

Dear Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Conference Committee (S.F. 959/H.F. 1076):

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties. We seek to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate. We would like to comment on several provisions in the House and Senate versions of S.F. 959.

Provisions the Partnership Supports

- **Waste Reduction and Reuse:**
 - MPCA appropriations for food rescue, food waste reduction and organics diversion grants (*Senate Art 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 7(g), Lines 15.12-15.23; House Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 7(g), Lines 13.14-13.22*).
 - LCCMR appropriations for food rescue to Second Harvest (*Senate Art. 3, Sec. 2, Subd. 7(c), Lines 180.17-180.25; House Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 7(c), Lines 63.5-63.13*).
 - LCCMR appropriations for reuse to Better Futures, Natural Resources Research Institute and ReUSE Minnesota (*Senate Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 7(e), Lines 231.27-232.7 and Subd. 7(f), Lines 232.8-232.20; House Art. 3, Sec. 2, Subd. 7(e), Lines 107.31-108.11 and Subd. 7(f), Lines 108.12-108.24*).
- **SCORE:** Funding increase in the next biennium (*Senate Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd., 7(d), Lines 14.30-14.35*). We further support the eventual goal of distributing all solid waste management taxes intended for county waste reduction and recycling programs.
- **Emerald Ash Borer Response:**
 - DNR appropriations for grants and assistance to communities (*House Art. 1, Sec. 3, Subd. 4(j), Lines 23.10-23.32 and House Art. 1, Sec. 10, Subd. 4(h), Lines 41.11-41.17*).

- LCCMR appropriations for community forest grants and University of Minnesota research (*Senate Art. 3, Sec. 2, Subd. 6(b), Lines 178.7-178.18 and Subd. 6(e), Lines 178.34 – 179.12; House Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 6(b), Lines 60.30-61.5 and Subd. 6(e), Lines 61.21-61.34*).
- **New and Expanded Markets:**
 - Carpet product stewardship task force and plan (*House Art. 4, Sec. 47, Lines 175.13-176.16*).
 - LCCMR appropriation for eco-friendly plastics research at the University of Minnesota (*Senate Art. 3, Sec. 2, Subd. 7(b), Lines 180.8-180.16; House Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 7(b), Lines 62.31-63.4*).
 - MPCA appropriations for recycling market development grants (*Senate Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd., 7(f), Lines 15.8-15.11; House Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 7(f), Lines 13.10-13.22*).
- **Compostable Products Certification and Labeling:** Certification standards and labeling requirements for compostable packaging and products (*House Art. 4, Sec. 42, Lines 172.1-174.1*).
- **PFAS:**
 - LCCMR appropriations to address PFAS in land-applied biosolids and PFAS reduction in solid waste facilities (*Senate Art. 3, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(c), Lines 173.30-174.4 and Subd. 4(e), Lines 174.15-174.27; House Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(c), Lines 55.32-56.6 and Subd. 4(e), Lines 56.17-56.29*).
 - MPCA appropriations to reduce PFAS at wastewater treatment and solid waste facilities with advisory group engagement (*House Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(m), Lines 5.27-5.32*).
 - MPCA appropriations to analyze sources of PFAS at solid waste facilities (*House Art. 4, Sec. 43, Lines 174.2 – 174.24*).
 - Eliminating PFAS in food packaging (*House Art. 4, Sec. 43, lines 174.2-174.27*).
- **MPCA Environmental Justice Authority:** Expanding MPCA authority to define and advance environmental justice in permitting and enforcement activities, examine cumulative impacts and engage with communities and community members in the permitting process (*House Art. 4, Sec. 9-10, Lines 141.5-141.26; Sec. 32, Lines 161.17-164.15 and Sec. 36, Lines 166.1-166.28*).

Provisions the Partnership Supports with Reservations

- **Mattress Recycling:** We support product stewardship and have concerns with this proposal as drafted (*Senate Art. 2, Sec. 116, Lines 98.28-105.29*). We support point-of-sale fees that fund an industry-coordinated mattress collection network with local

government participation. It is important that the bill supports and builds on the existing mattress recycling infrastructure to achieve higher levels of recycling, provides for the disposal of mattresses that cannot be recycled and minimizes and manages improperly discarded mattresses in partnership with local government. We continue to work with the author and proponents on final language.

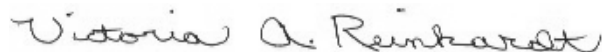
- **Advanced Recycling:** We support the concept of using new and emerging technologies to increase the recycling of plastic waste, recognizing the need to also reduce the volume of plastic waste. (*Senate Art. 2, Sec. 101-115, Lines 94.18-98.27 and Sec. 121, Lines 109.25-110.15*). We continue to work with the author and proponents on final language.
- **E-waste Recycling:** We support changes to the e-waste statute recommended by the MPCA (*House Art. 4, Sec. 11-16, Lines 141.27-149.7*). We urge a future legislative effort to establish an e-waste product stewardship program addressing current significant cost burdens counties now face.
- **MLCAT Repayment:** We support actions that restore funds borrowed from the MLCAT account to address urgent, costly needs at landfills (*House Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 10(b), Lines 15.28-16.3*). We encourage full repayment on a faster timeline.

Provision the Partnership Opposes

- **Unadopted Rules:** We oppose creating barriers against efficient, orderly and effective implementation of state environmental policy, goals and laws, including impacts on solid waste planning, public information services and county budgets that cause unintended consequences for public health and environmental protection (*Senate Art. 2, Sec. 125, Lines 119.1-119.11*).

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Partnership's positions in the effort to create an Environment & Natural Resources Omnibus bill that best advances state public health and environmental protection goals required of local governments and helps create partnerships with the state, municipalities, businesses and non-private organizations. Please contact Rob Vanasek at Capitol Hill Associates for further information on the Partnership's positions on these provisions (rob@capitolhillassoc.com; 612-964-4876).

Sincerely,



Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy

cc: Megan Hennen, Committee Administrator, Senate
Peter Strohmeier, Committee Administrator, House
Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Commissioner Fran Miron, Washington County