

February 24, 2021

Representative Rick Hansen
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
407 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for H.F. 1426

Dear Chair Hansen,

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board consisting of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties formed to address waste management and energy issues. We support initiatives that build a sustainable, circular economy to keep products and materials in use. We support producer-led product stewardship efforts to reduce lifecycle impacts of products and manage materials more sustainably.

The Partnership would like to thank Representative Jordan for introducing H.F. 1426 and Chair Hansen for hearing it. We strongly support the concept of product stewardship, and we certainly support product stewardship for carpet. H.F. 842, also authored by Representative Jordan and modeled after legislation introduced in the previous Session, is a product stewardship approach we favor. Nonetheless, H.F. 1426 represents an important step in creating a product stewardship system that supports carpet recycling. After the recent loss of what little carpet recycling infrastructure there was in the state, this bill marks Minnesota's return to the conversation of keeping this resource out of landfills.

By creating a partnership among producers, retailers, recyclers, local government and other stakeholders, this bill begins to form a carpet collection network that will do the following.

- Provide feedstock to manufacture new products out of carpet that would otherwise be landfilled.
- Reduce operational challenges in waste processing facilities.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through recycling.
- Support jobs and economic growth.

We support the goal of H.F. 1426 to value carpet as a resource for recycling and prefer the following concepts to be included in the bill to create a more robust carpet stewardship effort in Minnesota.

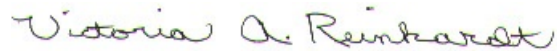
- Promote design and production of carpet in ways that minimize environmental and health impacts.
- Remove end-of-life fees that may lead to disposal or illegal dumping.

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- Establish a statewide network of carpet recycling collection points that are convenient to residents and small businesses.
- Design a system that more strongly discourages mixing waste carpet with construction, demolition or mixed solid waste.
- Fully reimburse local governments that participate as a program collection site or otherwise assist in the success of the program.

The Partnership supports the work of the bill author to introduce H.F. 1426 to establish a product stewardship approach to managing waste carpet. We look forward to working together to achieve passage of a bill that reduces the life cycle impacts of carpet and the burdens faced by local government and Minnesota residents in dealing with waste carpet.

Sincerely,



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

C. Peter Strohmeier, Committee Administrator
Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Commissioner Fran Miron, Washington County