

March 10, 2021

Representative Jamie Long
Chair, House Climate & Energy Finance & Policy Committee
517 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Future Fuels Act -- H.F. 2083

Dear Chair Long,

The Partnership on Waste and Energy is part of the broad coalition that strongly supports the proposed Future Fuels Act (H.F. 2083) introduced by Representative Todd Lippert and urges support of this critical legislation. The Partnership is a joint powers board formed by Ramsey, Washington, and Hennepin Counties that collaborates on waste and energy issues. The Future Fuels Act is a technology and fuel neutral approach to decarbonizing transportation fuels in Minnesota in a way that's good for our people, environment, and economy.

State law requires metropolitan counties to achieve a 75% recycling goal by 2030. In order to achieve this ambitious goal, the recycling of organic waste, primarily food waste, will be necessary. Organic waste comprises 30% of our trash, and there are hundreds of thousands of tons available for recovery each year in Minnesota.

Organics recycling programs are in the early stages of development. A key limiting factor is available infrastructure to process the organics into beneficial products. Composting is the most common organics processing method, but anaerobic digestion (also known as AD) is a better, higher use for this material. Specifically, AD has the added benefit of producing biogas which can be used to produce various forms of clean, renewable energy – including carbon negative transportation fuels.

We believe the Future Fuels Act will develop strong, reliable markets for biogas, which will support the development of much needed infrastructure to better manage organic waste in ways that capture its maximum resource value. Furthermore, policies that support the conversion of organic waste into clean fuels could be the best tools available for substantially reducing the climate impacts of waste. The Partnership fully supports this effort and urges your committee to do the same.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Mike Molzahn, Committee Administrator
Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Commissioner Fran Miron, Washington County