

February 8, 2022

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. 836, MLCAT account repayment

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. The Partnership seeks 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.

The Partnership fully supports H.F. 836 (Rep. Richardson, Rep. Hansen) to transfer \$13.905 million from the general fund to fully repay the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) account.

The MLCAT is an important mechanism to protect public health and the environment and address critical needs resulting from landfill pollution. The Partnership has testified previously in support of full repayment of the MLCAT account, after it had been raided twice since 2003 to balance the general fund budget.

Legislative action last session provides annual repayment of \$100,000 to the MLCAT starting in FY 2022. At that rate, it would take 140 years to repay the account. This falls far short of what is urgently needed now and in the coming years to address costly care needs at metro area landfills, including four landfills in the counties represented in the Partnership.

The Partnership thanks you for co-authoring H.F. 836 and supporting efforts to secure full repayment of the MLCAT account in 2022. We urge the committee to advance H.F. 836.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Fran Miron, Washington County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy

cc: Peter Strohmeier, Committee Administrator
Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County
House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee members