

February 28, 2022

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

Re: Support for HF 3627 (Xiong, J.)

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 supports HF 3627 (Xiong, J.) creating a task force to coordinate remediation and restoration of the Pig's Eye Landfill Superfund site and addressing PFAS contamination of affected water bodies and groundwater. The challenges with this site are significant and complex. Focusing and coordinating solutions among various agencies and interested parties has the promise of creating better outcomes to the benefit of public health, the environment and future users of the area's land and waters, residents and wildlife alike.

The Partnership has expressed support in past committee hearings for restoration of funds borrowed from the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) account and the Closed Landfill Investment Fund (CLIF) to balance past general fund budgets, as well as ensuring adequate future funding for landfill clean-up needs. The Pig's Eye situation is a prime example of the urgency to own up to our obligations as a state, to remedy past practices and prevent future harm from product and waste management choices. The state has the opportunity to prioritize and fund efforts to reduce waste, address toxicity of products, promote reuse and recycle more materials, all to prevent future situations like we find at Pigs' Eye.

The Partnership appreciates the priority legislators place on mitigating sources and causes of pollution and harm to human health. We look forward to solutions that protect public health and clean up past pollution impacting our environment.

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 Finance Committee members