



CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA



April 5, 2022

Rep. Paul Marquart, Chair
House Committee on Taxes
597 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Comments on HF3669 as amended by A2 DE amendment

Chair Marquart and Members of the House Taxes Committee,

The Association of Minnesota Counties, the Minnesota Inter-County Association, the Solid Waste Administrators Association, the Partnership on Waste and Energy, and Conservation Minnesota wish to thank the Committee for partial inclusion of Representative Hornstein's HF 2367 in the Omnibus Tax Bill.

We appreciate the progress the current version of the House Omnibus Tax Bill in the DE provides towards HF 2367's aims to dedicate all Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) revenues to waste management and landfill diversion efforts. We would also encourage the Chair and Members to consider building on your foundation in the bill and increase the portion of the SWMT to meet growing solid waste challenges. The transfer of the SWMT receipts that currently go to the General Fund over to SCORE recycling grants to counties is long overdue.

Counties are mandated by the state to deal with this core government function and protect the public health and the environment from the tragic effects of mismanagement of solid waste. We continue to get further behind and the need for the user tax on trash to be used for its intended purpose grows each year with ever increasing trash quantity and toxicity challenges.

SCORE grants provide local governments with resources to reduce waste, foster reuse and recycling, divert organics, and prevent environmental pollution from landfills. The SCORE Report that led to the creation of the Solid Waste Management Tax wrote, "that all money collected from the tax on solid waste services should be appropriated for solid waste activities."

We have long supported all of the revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax to waste management activities. We believe our phased in approach is responsible but if it needs to be phased in over a longer period, we understand the constraints the committee is under.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for your work to help address acute and quickly growing waste challenges.

Thank you,



Commissioner Todd Patzer,
Lac qui Parle County
President, Association of Minnesota Counties



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



Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association



Paul Austin
Executive Director, Conservation Minnesota



Laine Sletta, Brown County
President, Solid Waste Administrators Association