

March 28, 2023

Senator Nick A. Frentz
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
3109 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: S.F. 2847, Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Finance Omnibus Bill

Dear Chair Frentz,

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 would like to strongly support two items in S.F. 2847, the Committee's Finance Omnibus bill, to advance the state's renewable energy and waste management goals.

Emerald Ash Borer Wood Dehydrator (Lines 14.25 – 14.33)

The state requires a range of solutions to respond to the emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation that is now identified in 40 Minnesota counties and continues to spread. Adequate capacity does not exist to properly manage the surge of wood waste created as counties, cities, private landowners and others battle EAB. State funding to purchase wood dehydrating equipment at the Koda Energy biomass facility in Shakopee will lead to a meaningful expansion of the region's capacity. *The Partnership encourages the full \$4 million appropriation included in S.F. 2887.*

Natural Gas Innovation Plan Implementation (Lines 2.25 – 2.28)

The Partnership supports funding to implement utilities' natural gas innovation plans to support stable and reliable markets for renewable natural gas. This will lead to development of infrastructure we need to recycle organics, such as food waste, in a way that promises to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and climate impacts of waste and help counties achieve state recycling mandates.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Partnership's positions on S.F. 2847. We stand ready to work together on these important energy issues for the benefit of our communities and the state.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy

cc: Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee members