

March 14, 2023

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. 2693

Dear Chair Hansen,

The Partnership on Waste and Energy is a Joint Powers Board formed by Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties to address waste management and energy issues. We support initiatives that keep products and materials in use for a more equitable circular economy.

We are writing today to support the goals of H.F. 2693, authored by Representative Hollins, to help the state shift towards a more circular economy. A circular economy designs waste and pollution out of products and keeps materials in use to continue serving the economy, instead of ending up in a disposal facility or landfill. We support programs and funding like what is proposed in H.F. 2693 to keep waste electronics, recyclable materials, reusable goods, and organic materials out of our trash and landfills.

Even with our robust recycling programs in place, more than \$50 million of potential value from recyclable materials is lost to the waste stream each year in our three counties alone. Grants available through this bill would encourage more robust markets for recyclables in the state.

The Partnership looks forward to working with the bill author to refine certain provisions in H.F. 2693 as it advances to enhance the impact of the grant program and assure language leads to effective policy on landfill diversion and zero waste efforts.

Recycling and reuse programs need investment. Counties, cities, and our community partners want to do more to get us closer to a circular economy. The grant program proposed in H.F. 2693 can be one of a variety of tools we need to meet growing waste challenges and achieve statutory recycling, waste diversion and climate protection goals. The Partnership thanks Rep. Hollins for introducing H.F. 2693 and the committee for considering how it can be one of the solutions needed for a zero-waste economy.

Sincerely,



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

cc: House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy committee members

PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY
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