

March 7, 2023

Senator Erin P. Murphy
Chair, Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee
3211 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: S.F. 2584 (Clean Transportation Standard Act)

Dear Chair Murphy,

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 is part of a broad coalition that strongly supports the proposed Clean Transportation Standard (CTS) Act (S.F. 2584) introduced by Senator Dibble. The CTS Act is a technology-neutral, all-of-the-above approach to decarbonizing transportation, the highest greenhouse gas emitting sector in the state. It would improve public health, particularly for disadvantaged populations, including low-income communities and people of color that have been disproportionately impacted by pollution. The Act is good for the state's environment and economy. It will also help solve a challenging waste issue.

State law requires metropolitan counties to achieve a 75% recycling goal by 2030. Recycling organic waste, primarily food waste, will be necessary if we are to achieve this goal. Hundreds of thousands of tons of organic waste—30% of our trash—are available for recovery each year in Minnesota.

Organics recycling programs are in the early stages of development. A key limiting factor is available infrastructure to process the organics into beneficial products. Composting is the most common organics processing method, but anaerobic digestion (also known as AD) is a higher use for this material. AD has the benefit of producing biogas which can be used for various forms of clean, renewable energy, including carbon negative transportation fuels like renewable natural gas.

The Partnership believes the CTS Act will lead to strong, reliable markets for biogas and the development of much needed infrastructure to capture maximum resource value from organic waste and reduce its climate impacts. We urge the committee to support the CTS Act.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee members