

**MEMORANDUM**

**May 5, 2023**

**Representative Aisha Gomez**  
**Representative Dave Lislegard**  
**Representative Esther Agbaje**  
**Representative Liz Lee**  
**Representative Greg Davids**

**Senator Ann Rest**  
**Senator Matt Klein**  
**Senator D. Scott Dibble**  
**Senator Grant Hauschild**  
**Senator Bill Weber**

Dear Members of the Taxes Conference Committee (H.F. 1938/S.F. 1811):

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board (Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties) formed to address waste management and energy issues. We seek 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 has supported the direction of S.F. 1587/H.F. 1785 to redirect all Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) revenues currently going to the General Fund to solid waste purposes, recognizing that this tax was designed as a user fee on solid waste generation to pay for environmentally responsible management of solid waste, a core function of government.

The Partnership greatly appreciates the provisions in the House and Senate Omnibus Tax Bills to allocate a portion of the SWMT currently going to the General Fund to the Environmental Fund for SCORE grants to counties. (*House – Art. 12, Sec. 12; Senate – Art. 13, Sec. 17*)

**The Partnership strongly supports the 15% allocation in the Senate version of H.F. 1938.** The Partnership encourages the conference committee to potentially find a path to adopt or phase in the 15% allocation prior to 2027 to begin boosting SCORE eligible activities sooner than four years out.

SCORE grants provide funding to support recycling programs, food waste management and prevention, composting, waste reduction and the management of problem materials including household hazardous wastes. SCORE funding comprises an important part of solid waste budgets as counties seek additional resources for the infrastructure investments and program changes required to achieve state recycling mandates in pursuit of a zero-waste economy.

For further information on the Partnership position on this provision, please contact Rob Vanasek at Capitol Hill Associates ([rob@capitolhillassoc.com](mailto:rob@capitolhillassoc.com); 612-964-4876).

Sincerely,



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