

March 11, 2024

Senator Foug Hawj
Chair, Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
3231 Minnesota Senate Building
95 W. University Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for S.F. 3427

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee,

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.

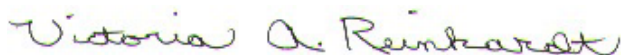
The Partnership supports product stewardship approaches that engage manufacturers in efforts to keep their products out of landfills and disposal facilities and offer consumers convenient recycling options, all without burdening taxpayers.

S.F. 3427 requires manufacturers of boat wrap to implement and finance a statewide product stewardship program to recycle and reuse this material. Boat wrap is discarded from various boat storage facilities in all three counties represented by the Partnership. Years of effort by some counties, recycling organizations and businesses to develop pilot projects and stimulate end markets for the material have laid the groundwork for recovering and recycling this material. However, efforts appear to be stalled, with limited impact.

S.F. 3427 takes a more comprehensive approach that will bring all boat wrap manufacturers to the table, a stronger platform for significantly reducing disposal through manufacturer-led recycling and reuse programs. Among the several valuable provisions in the bill that the Partnership supports is the inclusion of local government in stakeholder consultation in the development of the stewardship plan required in the bill.

The Partnership thanks Sen. Morrison for introducing S.F. 3427. We encourage favorable action on this bill as one of many solutions needed to advance zero-waste goals and a circular economy.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Victoria A. Reinhardt, Ramsey County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy