

March 4, 2024

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

Re: S.F. 3940

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.

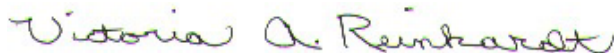
Electronic waste must be kept out of the mixed municipal solid waste stream and disposal facilities to reduce waste toxicity and prevent risks to the environment and public health, as well as recover valuable products and essential materials for reuse and recycling.

Current law is outdated and is increasingly shifting financial and operational burdens onto counties. This is contrary to the original purpose of the statute to hold manufacturers responsible. The statute also does not adequately account for the significant change over the years in the nature and types of electronics that consumers purchase.

The Partnership on Waste and Energy supports legislative action to revise existing electronic waste recycling law to put more responsibility for managing these products on the electronics industry. Changes made to the law need to reflect the current nature of electronic products and provide flexibility for an evolving marketplace, as presented in the delete everything amendment to S.F. 3940.

Thank you, Chair Hawj, for hearing this bill. We encourage a thoughtful evaluation of proposed changes and advancement of a bill that makes recycling more convenient and less costly for consumers and relieves burdens on counties and taxpayers.

Sincerely,



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