

May 10, 2024

**Representative Aisha Gomez
Representative Dave Lislegard
Representative Esther Agbaje
Representative Liz Lee
Representative Matt Norris**

**Senator Ann H. Rest
Senator D. Scott Dibble
Senator Grant Hauschild
Senator Aric Putnam
Senator Bill Weber**

Re: H.F. 5247/S.F. 5234, Support for SWMT allocation for SCORE grants

Dear Members of the Taxes Conference Committee,

The Association of Minnesota Counties, the Minnesota Inter-County Association, the Solid Waste Administrators Association and the Partnership on Waste and Energy appreciate the provision of one-time additional allocation of Solid Waste Management Tax receipts to SCORE recycling grant funding in the House and Senate Omnibus Tax Bills.

We strongly support a funding level that reflects the solid waste challenges counties face. The \$3.252 million appropriation in the Senate bill better reflects the scale of those challenges.

Counties rely on SCORE funding to keep waste out of landfills and waste-to-energy facilities and address the health and environmental impacts of waste. Despite significant investment of local funds, statewide recycling rates have been stuck at 40-45%. SCORE grants provide local governments with resources needed to recycle more, reduce waste, foster reuse, divert organics and prevent environmental pollution from landfills.

The one-time appropriation will be very helpful as counties address ever-increasing trash quantity and toxicity challenges, allowing counties to invest in programs to achieve state recycling mandates in pursuit of a zero-waste economy.

Thank you,




Brian Martinson
Association of Minnesota Counties



Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association



Drew Hatzenbihler
Morrison County Solid Waste Administrator
President, Solid Waste Administrators Association



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