

March 14, 2022

Senator Carrie Rudd
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy & Legacy Finance
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3233
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for SF 3359 (Hawj)

Dear Chair Ruud,

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.

The Partnership supports SF 3359 (Hawj) creating a task force to coordinate remediation and restoration of the Pig's Eye Landfill Superfund site and addressing PFAS contamination of affected water bodies and groundwater. The challenges with this site are significant and complex. Focusing and coordinating solutions among various agencies and interested parties has the promise of creating better outcomes to the benefit of public health, the environment and future users of the area's land and waters, residents and wildlife alike.

The Partnership has joined the Association of Minnesota Counties, the Minnesota Inter-County Association and the Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association in expressing support in a recent Senate communication for restoration of funds borrowed from the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) account and the Closed Landfill Investment Fund (CLIF) to balance past general fund budgets, as well as ensuring adequate future funding for landfill clean-up needs. The Pig's Eye situation is a prime example of the urgency to own up to our obligations as a state, to remedy past practices and prevent future harm from product and waste management choices. The state has the opportunity to prioritize and fund efforts to reduce waste, address toxicity of products, promote reuse and recycle more materials, all to prevent future situations like we find at Pigs' Eye.

The Partnership appreciates the priority legislators place on mitigating sources and causes of pollution and harm to human health. We look forward to solutions that protect public health and clean up past pollution impacting our environment.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Fran Miron, Washington County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy

cc: Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee members