

March 22, 2022

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee

Re: SF4117 (Ingebrigtsen) Closed landfill investment fund transfer.

Dear Chair Ingebrigtsen:

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) is a membership-based organization representing all 87 Minnesota counties and the Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA) is an AMC affiliate that represents the interests of county and waste districts professional staff. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our support of SF4117 to repayment funds that were previous transferred from the Closed Landfill Investment Fund (CLIF).

There are 114 closed landfills across the state that are part of the Closed Landfill Program. CLIF was originally established to provide long-term care for closed landfills to prevent human exposure to landfill waste, contaminated ground and surface water, harmful vapors, combustible methane gas, and greenhouse gas.

The fund was credited with over \$20 million from the Solid Waste Fund and insurance recovery settlements, but use of the fund was prohibited for 20 years to allow the modest original investments to grow to better meet future demand for landfill care expenses.

Unfortunately, in 2010 \$48 million was transferred out of the CLIF to balance the state's General Fund. The transfer legislation did require repayment with lost interest and other investment earnings to be made in three payments during FYs 2014-2017. Only the FY2014 repayment was made before the remaining restoration payments were repealed.

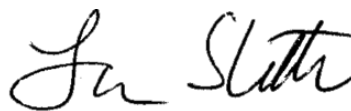
Our associations have supported full repayment of these transferred funds to strengthen CLIF for ongoing environmental needs at eligible sites. The MPCA current estimates 30 years costs at over \$300 million while the current CLIF value is approximately \$120 million.

AMC and SWAA thank you for sponsoring SF4117 to make a onetime repayment of \$43.619 million to CLIF and encourage the committee to support funding this proposal.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Todd Patzer, Lac qui Parle County
President, Association of Minnesota Counties



Laine Sletta, Brown County
President, Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association