



"To promote a zero-waste society that advocates for reducing waste, sustainably reusing resources and less landfill use."

March 31, 2022

SF 1531 (Ruud)

Dear Chair Nelson and Tax Committee Members:

On behalf of the Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRA) trade group representing nine waste-to-energy facilities across the state, the MRRA Board of Directors urge your support for SF 1531 (Ruud) to amend the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) revenue allocation.

- **MRRA Supports Efforts to Permanently Increase SCORE Grants (SF 1531).** SF 1531 advances MRRA's 2022 legislative priorities agenda in support of efforts "to allocate all revenue generated by the SWMT to waste management activities and increase SCORE funding."
 - Less than 25% of total SWMT collections are dedicated to the solid waste management work of counties. Even more than what is skimmed off to the General Fund and not used to address growing solid waste challenges at all.
 - We appreciate your committee's leadership in 2021 to increase SCORE grant funding by \$700,000 annually, totaling \$18.45 million per year.
 - The current state budget surplus offers a critical opportunity to right-size SCORE grant levels to meet the challenges counties face to increase reuse and recycling of valuable materials and prevent environmental pollution from landfills.

- **MRRA Fully Supports the Long-Established Waste Hierarchy of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Toward Achieving `Zero-Waste' Goals and Minimal Landfill Disposal.** Further, those SCORE grant funding levels have remained relatively flat, and well below normal inflation. By comparison, 30 percent of SWMT revenue, or about \$30 million, is dedicated to the General Fund. Ironically, that General Fund portion has been increasing each year as, unfortunately, solid waste streams and landfill deposits have also continued to grow and outpace the recycling and landfill diversion work.
 - Fully dedicating General Fund SWMT revenues to SCORE grants will support a more sustainable path forward for reducing waste streams and achieving state recycling goals.

- MRRA urges the Legislature to finally and fully allocate the above-mentioned 30 percent in SWMT revenues to solid waste management activities found under Minn. Stats. 115A.557, as proposed in SF 1531 (Ruud).

We stand ready to work with policymakers, state agencies, communities, and the private sector to act on public and environmental health issues in 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris McConn', written over a horizontal line.

Chris McConn
MRRA Board of Directors