



April 4, 2022

Senator Carla Nelson, Chair  
Senate Committee on Taxes  
3235 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Nelson and Members of the Senate Tax Committee:

The Association of Minnesota Counties, the Minnesota Inter-County Association, the Solid Waste Administrators Association, and the Partnership on Waste and Energy continues to urge the inclusion of Senator Ruud's SF 1531, which is not in the current DE version of the Senate Omnibus Tax Bill. The transfer of the SWMT receipts that currently go to the General Fund over to SCORE recycling grants to counties is long overdue.

Counties are mandated by the state to deal with this core government function and protect the public health and the environment from the tragic effects of mismanagement of solid waste. We continue to get further behind and the need for the user tax on trash to be used for its intended purpose grows each year with ever increasing trash quantity and toxicity challenges.

SCORE grants provide local governments with resources to reduce waste, foster reuse and recycling, divert organics, and prevent environmental pollution from landfills. The SCORE Report that led to the creation of the Solid Waste Management Tax wrote, "that all money collected from the tax on solid waste services should be appropriated for solid waste activities."

We have long supported all of the revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax to waste management activities. We believe our phased in approach is responsible but if it needs to be phased in over a longer period, we understand the constraints the committee is under.

We hope, Madam Chair, that you and committee members will support progress towards the goal of SF 1531.

Thank you,

Handwritten signature of Commissioner Todd Patzer in black ink.

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

Handwritten signature of Commissioner Fran Miron in black ink.

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

Handwritten signature of Matt Massman in black ink.

Matt Massman, Executive Director  
Minnesota Inter-County Association

Handwritten signature of Laine Sletta in black ink.

Laine Sletta, Brown County  
President, Solid Waste Administrators Association