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February 21, 2023

Senator FOUNG HAWJ
Chair, Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3231
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: S.F. 440 - Morrison: Metropolitan landfill contingency action trust account money transfer authorization

Dear Chair Hawj and committee members:

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. Both AMC and SWAA advocate for policies and funding that improve and promote responsible waste management and reduce environmental impacts of solid waste.

AMC and SWAA support Senator Morrison's bill (SF440) to repay prior transfers from the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) account. The MLCAT is necessary to address emergency and long-term care at landfills and waste disposal sites in the seven-county metro area. The fund balance is already inadequate to address the expected expenses at eligible sites within three years.

MLCAT's primary revenue source is the fee on solid waste deposited at metro landfills. When these transfers were made to balance general fund budget deficits there was a commitment to repay those borrowed funds with interest and lost earnings. The repayment schedule was subsequently cancelled but the obligations of this fund have continued to grow.

We encourage the committee to vote in favor of this legislation. The opportunity of the current budget surplus makes this an ideal time to repay past transfers and extend the ability of MLCAT to address emergency and ongoing environmental impacts of the landfills it was designed to support.

Sincerely,

Brian Martinson, Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties

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