

February 21, 2023

Senator Foug Hawj, Chair
Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
3231 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Hawj and Members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee,

The Minnesota Inter County Association (MICA), represents fifteen of Minnesota's larger and faster growing counties, including four suburban and 11 Greater MN counties.

MICA supports SF440, and we thank Senator Morrison for authoring this legislation.

SF440 takes long overdue action to restore monies that were transferred out of Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) in previous years for non-landfill care purposes. Closed landfills pose long-term public health and environmental risks that require substantial post-care costs, and the resources restored by SF440 are essential to mitigating those risks.

In 1984, MLCAT was created to ensure funding for adequate and reasonable care of certain closed Mixed-Municipal Solid Waste (MMSW) landfills in the seven-county metropolitan area. Metro county residents have paid into this Trust as part of solid waste collection and disposal fees with the intent a portion of the funds be used to protect future Minnesotans from potential contamination related to these closed landfills.

In 2003 and 2005, those contributions were used to solve State General Fund deficits and were never replaced. Five metro-area landfills — closed for 30 years— are now covered by MLCAT for long-term care expenses. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has projected costs to be more than \$65 million through 2049. These projections do not include funding that will be required to address issues at the Pine Bend and Burnsville Landfills, which will also be eligible for MLCAT following closure.

SF440 appropriates \$29.055 million to restore funds previously withdrawn from the MLCAT, along with lost earnings as was the intent when the funds were transferred out. Importantly, SF440 is needed to restore the fiscal health to MLCAT to ensure the closed landfill sites will be appropriately managed to protect human and environmental health.

Thank you Chair Hawj and Committee members for hearing this legislation. We encourage your support.



Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association