

February 20, 2023

Senator Foug Hawj
Chair, Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
1150 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: S.F. 440, Repayment of Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust

Dear Chair Hawj,

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board consisting of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties, formed to address waste management and energy issues. The Partnership seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.

The Partnership strongly supports S.F. 440 (Senator Morrison) to transfer \$29.055 million from the general fund to fully repay the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) account and compensate for lost investment income to support the account.

The MLCAT is an important mechanism to protect public health and the environment and address critical needs resulting from landfill pollution. The Partnership has testified previously in support of full repayment of the MLCAT account, after it had been raided twice since 2003 to balance the general fund budget.

Legislative action in 2021 provides for annual repayment of \$100,000 to the MLCAT starting in FY 2022. At that rate, it would take nearly 300 years to full repay the account. This falls far short of what is urgently needed now and in the coming years to protect public health and address costly care needs at metro area landfills, including four landfills in the counties represented in the Partnership.

The Partnership thanks you for co-authoring S.F. 440 and supporting efforts to secure full repayment of the MLCAT account. We urge the committee to advance S.F. 440.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy

cc: Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy committee members