

100%

100% Campaign
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February 27, 2023

Chair Rest and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Senator Scott Dibble's Senate File 1587, a bill to fully dedicate revenues raised by the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) to managing Minnesota's solid waste.

Senate File 1587 would incrementally increase the dedication of SWMT revenues from 70% (or \$33,760,000, whichever is greater) to 100% by Fiscal Year 2026. These newly dedicated funds would be available for the purposes described in 115A.557, subdivision 2, excluding the processing of mixed municipal solid waste generated in a county at a resource recovery facility.

This long overdue change is important for two reasons.

First, Minnesotans strongly support state investments in innovative state waste management systems. A January 2023 poll by Data For Progress found that "eighty percent of Minnesota voters are in favor of a state program that would fund investments in new waste strategies." This bill would do exactly that by increasing state support for the Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE) funds that our counties use to manage solid waste.

Second, Minnesota will benefit from a transition to a Zero Waste economy. The state's support for these kinds of solutions has both climate and job benefits. Increasing SCORE funding means more jobs in an established industry that every week helps advance Minnesota toward our climate goals. In 2020, Minnesota's Waste Sector netted 1,721,467 tons of CO2 emissions. A transition to zero waste will help lower those emissions and, if done well, will help recover materials that further the clean energy transition itself.

Please support Senate File 1587.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aurora Vautrin

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