

February 20, 2023

Senator Ann Rest, Chair  
Senate Tax Committee  
328 Minnesota State Capitol  
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Rest and Senate Tax Committee Members:

The Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) is a voluntary association representing fifteen of Minnesota's larger and faster growing counties, including four suburban and eleven Greater Minnesota counties.

MICA strongly supports SF1587 authored by Senator Dibble, and co-authored by Senators Weber, Hawj, Eichorn, and Rest. The legislation will help better protect public health and the environment by redirecting solid waste management tax (SWMT) revenues currently deposited into the state General Fund to SCORE grants under Minn. Stats. 115A.557.

State law assigns lead accountability for meeting state solid waste mandates to counties. In that role, counties now spend over four times more dollars from local and other resources on recycling efforts than the amounts provided by SCORE grants. Despite that local commitment, solid waste streams continue to grow in both volume and complexity.

Increased SCORE grants will allow counties and local partners to expand organics collection and waste reduction and recycling efforts, including development of local markets for recycled material. Such projects can cost tens of millions in infrastructure and operating expenses and are necessary to both meet state-determined recycling goals and to move Minnesota toward zero-waste objectives.

Originally designed to help state and local government fund recycling related programs, the SWMT now provides over \$30 million (30 percent of revenues) to the General Fund. Redirecting the 30 percent of SWMT revenues to SCORE grants will help put the state and local communities on a healthier and more sustainable path, and strengthen Minnesota's economy.

For example:

- Recycling creates more jobs than landfilling. The recycling industry employs 37,000 Minnesotans.
- Recycling's total economic benefit to Minnesota is an estimated \$15.7 billion.
- Developing local recycling markets keeps resources, jobs, and businesses here.

Passage of SF1587 to increase SCORE is truly an investment in Minnesota. MICA respectfully requests that the legislature pass SF1587 to restore funding for recycling to counties.

Sincerely,



**Matt Massman**, Executive Director  
Minnesota Inter-County Association