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The Honorable Ann Rest  
Chair, Minnesota Senate Committee on Taxes  
Minnesota State Capitol Room 328  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Rest and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on Senate File 1587 (Dibble).

As Minnesota works to achieve a carbon-neutral economy by mid-century, addressing greenhouse gas emissions from waste is an important component to achieving our climate goals. Improving our waste management programs and policies also delivers a host of additional public benefits beyond climate change mitigation: healthier communities, jobs, and economic development. Senate File 1587 would support improvements to county waste management efforts through increased funding for SCORE grants, a critical tool for supporting local recycling programs. Fresh Energy supports Senate File 1587 and encourages members to support its passage.

Everything has a life cycle. A product is manufactured from extracted resources, it is used, and then it is disposed of. We all must be more conscious about the waste we generate, and that it has an immense impact on the climate. Waste affects everything in our environment; water, soil, air, food and energy - and as an energy policy organization it has come to our attention that we can have a role in supporting policies on waste that are focused on making action towards zero waste solutions.

As is stated in Minnesota's waste management hierarchy as outlined in [Sec. 115A.02 MN Statutes](#): the most preferred method of waste management is waste reduction. Fresh Energy agrees that the most impactful way to manage waste is to not generate it at all. However, we know that in the last few decades we have seen the rise of single-use plastics as a major source of waste. This parallels the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel production for energy generation, meaning that fossil fuel production has shifted towards the manufacturing of plastics as renewable sources of energy have become more affordable and accessible for energy generation. As we continue to work on increasing equitable access to renewable energy for public health and safety of the environment, we recognize that fossil fuels have shaped the way we all consume products and produce waste.

Nearly two-thirds of what ends up in landfills and incinerators could have been reused, recycled or composted<sup>1</sup>. We believe that many of those materials Both forms of disposal cause harm to public health and the environment. Minnesota counties and residents need financial assistance that can be provided through SCORE funding to reach the climate goals of waste reduction, recycling and composting.

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<sup>1</sup> [Understanding solid waste | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](#)

By recommitting to waste reduction and recycling through investment in programs such as SCORE, Minnesota has the opportunity to achieve a wide array of public benefits for our climate, our economy, and our communities. Senate File 1587 puts us on a track to harness that opportunity, and we encourage members to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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