



MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

March 20, 2024

Re: SF 3561 (Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act)

Dear Chair Klein and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

I write on behalf of the Minnesota Newspaper Association, which represents Minnesota's 260 newspapers, to express appreciation for the inclusion of language exempting newspapers from the requirements imposed by SF 3561. With this change, the Association stands neutral on the bill.

For more than 30 years, newspaper and magazine publishers have encouraged their readers to recycle. Newspapers are recycled at a rate of more than 64 percent, higher than any other product, and magazines have a similar success rate while recycling 100 percent of leftover retail product. Newspapers and magazines are environmentally friendly in other ways as well. Newspapers use soy-based non-toxic inks, so newsprint is fully compostable and biodegrades in a matter of months. Magazines use linseed-oil-based non-toxic inks and soluble adhesives that do not contaminate or disrupt the recycling process and are similarly 100 percent biodegradable within months. Both newspapers and magazines can be recycled multiple times before the fibers become too short and weak to be reused.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, newspapers comprise only 1.7 percent of municipal solid waste and magazines comprise 0.3 percent.

It also bears noting that the function performed by newspapers is very different from that of most other products in the waste stream. Newspapers provide vital news and information to residents of the state, frequently addressing environmental issues. We would like to thank Senator Morrison for listening to our concerns and ensuring the critical work of Minnesota newspapers will not be impeded.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hills
Executive Director, Minnesota Newspaper Association

cc: Senator Kelly Morrison