

February 21, 2024

Senator Foug Hawj
Chair of the Committee on Environment, Climate and Legacy

Re: SF 3561— Morrison: Establishing the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act

Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee members,

The City of Minneapolis is well-known for our high participation and low contamination in our residential recycling and organics recycling programs. Even so, our 2022 Capture Rate Study found it is not feasible for Minneapolis to meet the City, County or the State's recycling and composting goals without systematic changes and infrastructure improvements.

Our customers, Minneapolis residents (and all residents and businesses in the State), have always had to cover the cost for recycling, composting and disposal of packaging and have had no say in how products are manufactured. It's time that manufacturers and producers be held accountable for the packaging they make and the infrastructure needed to manage packaging at its end of life. We encourage you to support the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act which will do just that.

Passage of this bill will not only reduce taxpayer money spent to manage the end of life of these products; it will set requirements for manufacturers to reduce and redesign their packaging so eventually it is all reusable, recyclable, or compostable. Additionally, passage of this bill will help cover education and outreach costs, and expand access to reuse, recycling and composting programs around the State.

These systematic changes and financial support - packaging redesign, increased access to reuse, recycling and organics recycling programs and increased education - are necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to help meet City, County and State waste and climate goals.

Please continue to support waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and organics recycling programs and all residents of Minnesota by passing the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act.

Sincerely,



David A. Herberholz, Director
Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling