



February 21, 2024

Subject: SF 3561 Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act

Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee Members:

As the City of Saint Paul's manager of recycling and solid waste programs, I am writing to express our support for SF 3561 Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act.

This bill, if passed as currently written, would have many benefits for the City of Saint Paul, its residents, and the State of Minnesota. These proposed benefits will:

- Save local government and residents money by shifting the cost to producers and offering reimbursement for City source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting programs. The City of Saint Paul recycling program anticipates approximately 10 million dollars reimbursement annually for collection and education services if the proposed bill is passed.
- Simplify recycling by creating a single baseline list of recyclable materials statewide to reduce confusion and contamination.
- Increase recycling throughout the state by requiring that the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) work with existing haulers and recycling facilities to ensure recycling services are as conveniently available to all Minnesotans as trash collection.
- Require producers to pay for and manage the packaging they sell and transition to sustainable packaging that prevents waste, establishes reuse systems, makes sure the items are recyclable/compostable and that communities have those services available, reducing citizens' burden.

Please vote in favor of SF 3561. Thank you for the great work you are doing to protect the environment in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Sarah Haas
City of Saint Paul Solid Waste and Recycling Manager

