



February 27, 2024

Re: Support: 100% Electronics Recycling SF3940/HF3566

Clean Water Action has worked in Minnesota since 1982, focusing on finding solutions to health, consumer, environmental, and community problems; developing strong, community-based environmental leadership; and working for policies that improve lives and protect water. Our focus includes supporting environmental justice; protecting and restoring the Great Lakes for Minnesota; and ensuring safer chemicals for use in our homes and daily lives, as well as source and toxics reduction in plastics and other forms of waste. All our work culminates in the overarching goal of protecting the water we drink for generations to come.

Clean Water Action supports 100% Electronics Recycling Bill SF3940/HF3566 because we believe this is a good step toward cleaner water in Minnesota communities. The bill will expand the definition of electronic waste to enable 100% collection of electronics; creating an incentive for waste diversion by reimbursing collection sites for the electronics recycled; providing a free collection for all Minnesotans.

We are concerned with the amount of electronics that end up in landfills all across the state because the chemicals that are stored in landfills eventually seep into the groundwater. Of the 101 landfills in Minnesota, 98 are leaching. Discarded electronics cause 70% of all lead pollution in landfills, and eventually that lead will flow into our groundwater, and end up in our drinking water. We are also concerned that batteries from electronic devices are increasingly causing local landfill fires, such as the 2023 Rice County Landfill fire. This was a battery fire that polluted air, water, and crops for miles. SF3940/HF3566 will lower the amount of these fires occurring in our state, as well as lower the level of lead in our landfills, and possibly water.

In 2007, Minnesota created a program for waste that relies on county solid waste money and sends most of its funds out of state. It is time for us to replace this program with a much-improved one. The precious metals found in Minnesota's annual e-waste stream is equal to \$3 billion dollars. We are literally throwing away this money by dumping these metals into landfills every year. If we choose to start recycling our e-waste, we will be creating 1,700 jobs for our communities.

SF3940/HF3566 is a win-win for everyone; lessening the amount of pollution in landfills, saving precious metals and precious dollars, creating jobs, and getting back on track for supplying metals for the energy transition; all while being free for Minnesotans and free for collection sites. Thank you for taking time to read this letter and I urge you to support this bill as well.

Sincerely,
Nora Strande
Clean Water Action Legislative Intern

