



Community Power
2720 E 22nd St.
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Letter of Support for SF3940/HF3566 the
"100% Electronics Recycling Bill"

Dear Chairperson,

Community Power offers our strong support for the SF3940/HF3566 called the "100% Electronics Recycling Bill." Community Power is a Minneapolis-rooted energy democracy organization that supports residents and community-based organizations across Minnesota to build a clean, local, equitable, affordable, and reliable energy future.

Minnesota's annual e-waste stream contains \$3 billion dollars worth of critical metals we need and use in our renewable energy and storage transition, and yet data shows us we are facing critical metals shortages that puts our energy transition in jeopardy¹ - metals which could be recovered from this reliable stream of electronic waste. We must begin harvesting this untapped resource, and also attend to the problems created by leaving it unaddressed. Not only would recycling our e-waste through enacting SF3940/HF3566 unblock these shortages, but it would also address multiple other needs of our state:

- **New job creation:** We can create 1700 direct jobs just in our state, and effective collection is the first step towards getting there.
- **Reduce pressure on landfills and associated pollution:** In Minnesota we only collect around 20% of our e-waste - and much of the rest ends up in landfills where it contributes 70% of lead contamination (please refer to the US EPA report provided). As we know, pollution from our waste disproportionately affects our most marginalized communities who consistently have higher exposure. SF3940 will greatly reduce how much lead pollution is present in our waste stream.
- **Reducing costly fire incidents at landfills:** Inaction is costing us more every year. Minnesota landfill operators and material recovery facilities (MRFs) report battery fires every few days - whereas small fires cost an average \$2,600 dollars to MRFs. Large fires cost up to 50 million dollars. The frequency of these fires is increasing every year. Please see the RRS report of lithium battery fires provided. In 2018 we lost a 20 million dollar transfer station due to a discarded battery. Last year Rice County Landfill had a battery fire that burned for almost a week straight. SF3940 will greatly reduce how many batteries end up in our waste stream - and thus save Minnesota taxpayers and businesses millions of dollars a year.

¹ Data on this shortage can be found in the economic opportunity report provided



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- **Keep more money within local communities instead of out of state:** our program from 2007 that sends most of its funds out-of-State. Relies heavily on charging Minnesota residents per item recycled, and relies on Minnesota tax dollars to subsidize its shortcomings.

What specifically is needed, and how does SF3940/HF3566 accomplish them?

1. **An expanded definition of e-waste:** The e-waste stream changes constantly - we don't want to have to meet back here every couple of years to add to our definitions! The current program covers TVs and computers.

SF3940/HF3566 will cover the whole e-waste stream.

2. **Making sure the cost of recycling is covered before an item is purchased** by a consumer. Financial barriers for those seeking to recyclers disincentivizes proper disposal. Taking care of the cost upstream in the cycle is essential to make sure we don't miss the majority of recyclables.

SF3940/HF3566 removes the financial barrier for recycling for all Minnesota residents.

3. **Create incentives for increased collection rates.** Directly reimbursing collection sites for the electronics recycled adds a financial support for those sites to put in the staff time, labor and materials needed to understand and accommodate more recyclables, expanded definitions and the do the work of educating visitors to the site.

SF3940/HF3566 provides an incentive to collect more material regardless of type - and provides sufficient funds for them to spend on education and marketing to raise awareness among residents.

Thank you for learning and leading on this issue.

/s/ *Alice Madden*

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