



**FRIENDS<sup>OF</sup>  
THE  
BOUNDARY  
WATERS**

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House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee  
Senator Fount Hawj  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3231  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Letter of support for SF3940/ HF3566 - 100% e-Waste Collection Bill

Dear Chair Hawj and Committee Members:

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness has been the leader in protecting the Boundary Waters and the Greater Quetico-Superior Ecosystem for almost fifty years. As part of this work, we advocate for policy solutions that will ensure the Boundary Waters Wilderness continues to be a pristine wilderness for generations to come.

One of the biggest threats to the BWCA is mining metals such as copper and nickel that are used in the manufacturing of electronics such as phones, computers, TVs, and solar panels. There are more effective, less polluting ways to procure these metals than mining. Minnesota's electronic waste contains metals that are needed for these devices and electronics. In fact, Minnesota's annual e-waste stream contains \$3 billion dollars worth of precious metals. There is a further economic boost to this: By recycling our e-waste, we can create 1,700 direct jobs, and many more spinoff jobs.

Enacting SF3940 / HF3566 would allow the state to seize this economic opportunity and would be a major step in reducing the need for potentially dangerous mining activities near the Boundary Waters.

It is time to replace our current program from 2007 that relies heavily on tax dollars and sends most of its funds out of Minnesota. HF3566/ SF3940 will divert electronic waste to recycling in the following ways:

- **Expand the definition.** By creating a comprehensive definition of what materials need to be recycled, the 100% Collection Bill covers more items, such as items with batteries, and provides sustainability to the program as the e-waste stream changes.
- **Provide free collection for all.** By removing the financial barrier for all Minnesotans and many businesses, free collection will be funded by manufacturers and retail fees.
- **Create incentives for waste diversion.** By directly reimbursing collection sites for recycled electronics, the 100% Collection Bill provides an incentive to collect more, increasing the State's diversion rate.

On behalf of the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness and on behalf of our members across the state of Minnesota, we urge the committee to support HF3566/ SF3940.

Thank you,

Chris Knopf  
Executive Director, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness