

March 4, 2024



Minnesota Senate  
Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee

**Re: Electronic Waste (SF3940)**

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition, we are writing in support of SF3940.

The Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition is an alliance of Minnesota-based environmental organizations, environmental justice advocates, sustainable waste service providers, and community members committed to advancing a future for Minnesota without waste. Our movement centers the voices and experiences of frontline communities, who are most negatively and directly impacted by the extraction of resources, production of goods, and disposal of waste. With equitable zero-waste solutions, more people will have access to clean air, fresh water, green jobs, and healthier neighborhoods. **This bill supports equitable access to e-waste recycling and is needed to help us build a zero waste future for Minnesotans.**

Legislation enacted in 2007 only supported about 20 million pounds of collection in 2020, falling far short from the estimated 133 million pounds generated yearly. This means the majority of electronic waste (e-waste) is being improperly disposed of. Without proper disposal, we are putting the health and well-being of residents and our environment at risk.

Though e-waste only makes up 2-3% of municipal solid waste by weight, it represents almost 70% of the toxic waste stream. Batteries in landfills, transfer stations, and recycling and waste streams cause fires. In May of this year, Rice County experienced a large fire caused by a battery in their landfill that burned for 5 days and polluted the air with smoke largely from burning plastic. This is just one of countless examples of electronics, improperly disposed of, causing fires. Our tax dollars are being used to clean up messes from improper e-waste disposal and our neighbors are burdened with the cost to their health.

Capturing our electronic waste should be a top priority for our state. Not only to keep this stream out of landfills and incinerators but to recapture the precious metals and reduce the need for extractive methods of metals production. SF3940 will provide universal, free drop off for ALL electronic waste and demystify the process for consumers.

We are happy to provide additional information and appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Krystle D'Alencar  
Member of the [MN Zero Waste Coalition](#)  
Organizer, Minnesota Environmental Justice Table



Lucy Mullany  
Member of the [MN Zero Waste Coalition](#)  
Director of Policy & Advocacy, Eureka Recycling

**Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition Members:**

Beyond Plastic Mankato Area  
Coalition to Reduce Plastic  
Climate Generation  
Clean Water Action / Fund  
CURE Minnesota  
Eureka Recycling  
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate (HPHC)  
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
Minnesota Environmental Justice Table  
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light  
MN350  
Recycling Electronics for Climate Action (RECA)  
Reuse Minnesota  
Rusty & the Crew  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter