

# Letter of Support SF3940 / HF 3566

the 100% Electronics Recycling Bill



**RECA**  
RECYCLING ELECTRONICS  
FOR CLIMATE ACTION

**The pending shortage of critical metals puts our energy transition in jeopardy** - metals which could be recovered from our electronic waste. Minnesota's annual e-waste stream contains \$3 billion dollars worth of all the metals we need. This data can be found in the economic opportunity report provided.

By recycling our e-waste, we can create 1700 direct jobs just in our state, and effective collection is the first step towards getting there.

**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. 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 Blaine Minnesota 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.

**It is time to replace 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.

## **Three things are needed to fix this collection system:**

1. **An expanded definition.** 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 - SF 3940 will cover the whole e-waste stream.
2. **Make sure the cost of recycling is covered before the item is purchased.** SF 3940 removes the financial barrier for recycling for all Minnesota residents.
3. **Create incentives for increased collection rates.** By directly reimbursing collection sites for the electronics recycled, SF 3940 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 supporting SF3940 / HF 3566.



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# Supporters



**RECA**  
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**Eureka Recycling**  
**Cosmic Recycling LLC**  
**MN Tech for Success**  
**Electronics Recycling of Minnesota**  
**Repowered**  
**Free Geek**

**Talon Metals**

**Minnesota Farmers Union**

**Sierra Club - North Star Chapter**  
**Clean Water Action Minnesota**  
**MN Zero Waste Coalition**  
**MN350 Action**  
**Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy**  
**Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness**  
**CURE**

**Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability**  
**Ely Climate Group**  
**Northern Progressives**

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth Climate Action**  
**Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota**  
**MN Interfaith Power & Light**

**R.I.S.E. Coalition**

**Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate**  
**MN Division of the Izaak Walton League of America**  
**Elders Climate Action of the Twin Cities**  
**Northeast Metro Climate Action**  
**Climate Generation**  
**Project Earth**  
**Citizens Climate Lobby**  
**Vadnais Heights Green Team**  
**Beyond Plastics Mankato Area**  
**Coalition for Plastic Reduction**  
**Community Power**  
**Itasca Clean Energy Team**  
**Giving Circle SEED-MN**

**Avalon School**

**Growing Futures LLC**  
**Lichen Labs LLC**



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