



CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA

April 2, 2024

Chair Hawj and Members of the Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee:

Conservation Minnesota urges you to **support SF4523 (Hauschild)** and the establishment of a Critical Materials Recovery Advisory Task Force. As we look to improve our waste management and reuse systems, diverting and recovering valuable materials from our waste stream and putting them back to use in our renewable energy system can help us achieve our clean energy goals and solve our waste problem.

The task force proposed in SF4523 (Hauschild) will serve an important role in preparing our systems to meet our modern waste and energy needs. Many of the products we rely on daily contain rare and valuable materials. These materials are necessary for developing the clean energy technology we need to meet our 2040 goals. While these materials are often extracted freshly in other countries, we currently sit on a large supply of our own in our waste stream, particularly in our electronic waste.

Developing the policies, procedures, and infrastructure to extract these critical materials and put them back to use provides several benefits. It will create jobs and increase economic opportunity across the state; it will help us reduce our growing waste stream; and it will ensure our ability to develop the renewable energy technologies we need domestically.

Managing these materials effectively requires us to investigate emerging technologies and research the most economical and environmentally sound methods for recovery and reuse. Establishing a truly circular system means not only recovering these materials but putting them back to use in our clean energy system. This bill brings us closer to closing that loop and developing a domestic supply chain to meet our energy needs.

We respectfully ask that this committee support SF4523 (Hauschild) to lay the foundation for this system and ensure that we can recover and reuse these critical materials through reliable technologies and jobs here in Minnesota.

Sincerely,
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