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The Honorable Founj Hawj
Chair, Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee
Minnesota Senate
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Hawj and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on Senate File 4523 (Hauschild).

Fresh Energy has been working for decades to accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies, from wind and solar to electric transportation. With the global economy now unmistakably transitioning toward clean low and zero-carbon technologies across a broad range of applications, there is both urgency and opportunity to begin addressing product end-of-life issues, including and especially the recovery of materials used throughout the clean energy economy.

Senate File 4523 takes a pragmatic step toward addressing this emerging issue through the establishment of a Critical Materials Recovery Advisory Task Force. A task force such as the one proposed in SF4523 would allow for broad perspectives to be heard from a diverse set of stakeholders as the state develops policies and programs to address these issues. Fresh Energy also appreciates the specific direction that the task force should work to identify solutions that prevent high-value reusable materials from being disposed of through landfilling or incineration.

Our global energy transition is well underway, and developing supply chains for reusable materials recovery from clean energy products and other electronic waste is an essential strategy for ensuring that we are prepared and ready as this transition accelerates even further. For these reasons, Fresh Energy encourages members to support SF4523.

Sincerely,

Margaret Cherne-Hendrick
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