

April 8, 2024

Dear Chair, Sen. Founj Hawj and Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee Members

I am writing today on behalf of the Vadnais Heights Green Team in support of the following bill.

SF 4944 – Surplus Food and Food Waste Management Requirements

Food waste is a major contributor to climate change on the production, delivery, and waste side. Wasted food accounts for almost 25% of everything that goes into our landfills. Landfills are costly to maintain and utilize copious amounts of space. In addition, when food waste breaks down in a landfill, methane is produced which is eighty times more powerful in warming the atmosphere than carbon dioxide.

It is estimated that almost one-third of the food we produce goes unused or uneaten. At the same time that we waste enormous amounts of food, one in eight Minnesotans struggle to put food on their table, with a disproportionate amount of people of color impacted.

This bill deals with both food surplus and food waste. The bill focuses on entities that produce substantial amounts of surplus food and food waste and requires them to take actions such as reduction, donate and diversion.

The mention of education and support in the bill for the Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act is key to help those donating food surplus understand they have liability protections.

We urge you to support SF4944.

Sincerely,  
Judy Lissick  
Vadnais Heights Green Team