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Stakeholders Letter to Members of the Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee in Support of SF5258: Incentives for Organic Composting and Development of a State Plan for Diversion of Organic Waste

April 7, 2024

To: Chair Fong Hawj and Members of the Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee.

Dear Members,

The undersigned organizations and companies are working together to promote a more sustainable, economic, environmentally and socially responsible way to manage waste. We strongly support SF5258, and encourage you to pass this bill.

Minnesotans are generating a lot of trash, almost 3.3 million tons of waste in one year in the Twin Cities alone. All of this waste is going to landfills and incineration facilities that are running out of space, are expensive to run, and are harming the environment and our health. Our State needs to take urgent action.

Much of the waste we generate is food, compostable waste and organic material that is difficult to manage and it compounds the problem. Food and organic waste is the largest individual component of municipal solid waste, over 30% of disposal municipal solid waste is food and organic waste.

Organic food waste can become very toxic when left to decompose in landfills because it releases methane, a hazardous air pollutant and greenhouse gas that threatens human health. Food waste is composed of about 70% water and burning it requires a considerable amount of time and energy, making burning the most expensive, least efficient and most toxic way of disposing waste.



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SF5258 will provide needed incentives to engage local communities in solving this problem. Educating and engaging people in the solution is one of the most environmentally friendly means of organic waste disposal. Unfortunately, many communities lack the resources to develop local, effective programs that can meet their range of needs.

As supporters of a more sustainable future for every Minnesotan, we urge you to support SF5258.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Environmental Justice Table

Beyond Plastics Greater Mankato Area

Clean Water Action

Climate Generation

Coalition for Plastic Reduction

CURE

Eureka Recycling

Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate

League of Women Voters of Minnesota

Mankato Zero Waste

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA)

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL)

Recycling Electronics for Climate Action

Rusty & the Crew