

April 9, 2024

Dear Chair Hawj and Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee Members:

I am writing today on behalf of Northeast Metro Climate Action in support of the following bill:

SF 5258 - Grant program establishment for pilot projects to encourage and increase composting in multifamily buildings.

Minnesotans create a tremendous amount of trash each year, more than 3 million tons in the Metro area alone. A significant portion of the waste is organics. Food waste in landfills contributes to more methane emissions than any other material. An estimated 8% of greenhouse gas emissions are attributed to food waste. Composting food waste that cannot be reduced is one of the most effective solutions to addressing climate change.

Composting is a popular program but is rarely available to people living in multi-family units. This bill is a great opportunity to provide grant money to establish composting programs to help fill that void. We appreciate that local governments, building owners and non-profit organization will be able to apply for the grants.

Including an education component is also important so that residents are provided with the information they need to ensure that compost is not contaminated. Clean compost is a valuable resource that improves the health of our soil, reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and is an excellent way to keep food waste out of landfills and incinerators.

We urge you to support SF5258.

Sincerely,
Lori Olinger
Northeast Metro Climate Action

