

April 8, 2024

Dear Chair, Sen. Fong 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 5258 – Grant program establishment for pilot projects to encourage and increase composting in multifamily buildings.

Food waste is not something many of us think of as being a significant driver of climate change. It has been estimated that more than one-third of all food goes unsold or uneaten, giving this waste the equivalent of a climate footprint of the entire US aviation industry! There is a tremendous amount of energy put into producing and delivering our food to then have one-third of it go to waste.

Food waste represents almost 25% of everything that goes into US landfills and when this food waste breaks down in a landfill, methane is produced which is eighty times more powerful in warming the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. If we want to reduce greenhouse gases, we must look to food waste as an area that needs solutions.

Composting is one solution to help keep food waste out of our landfills. Composting is a growing practice of residents in single family homes, but the opportunity for residents to compost in multi-family units is rare. This bill provides the availability of grants to set up composting programs for those residents in multi-family units and provides an educational component to ensure the compost will be clean and can be further utilized for healthy soil and will not ultimately end up in a landfill.

Please support SF5258.

Sincerely,
Judy Lissick
Vadnais Heights Green Team