



April 9, 2024

Senator Founq Hawj  
Chair, Environment, Climate and Legacy

RE: S.F. 3561 – Morrison: Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act

I am writing today to support S.F. 3561, authored by Senator Morrison.

Despite increasing public pressure, global plastic production is expected to double in the next 20 years. In the metro alone, the amount of waste generated is projected to grow by 19% over the next two decades. In the past 10 years, Bloomington has invested significant time and financial resources to reduce the amount of material managed as garbage, including organizing our residential solid waste collection program, implementing residential curbside organics recycling, and offering convenient curbside opportunities for residents to recycle and donate bulky items. With these major efforts, our 2022 annual residential recycling rate was 38% - consistent with the overall Hennepin County rate of 41%. Unfortunately, this is far short of the 75% recycling rate by 2030 goal held by the State.

The existing waste management system is severely stressed. The ongoing discussion regarding the potential closure of the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) is one example of the extreme challenges we face and the absolute need to reduce the amount of refuse we generate. It is understood that this challenge will require a range of actions including extended producer responsibility regulations like the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act. The Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act will help curb that waste and save taxpayer dollars. It will:

- Simplify recycling by creating a single baseline list of recyclable materials statewide to reduce confusion and contamination.
- Create an incentive for producers to reduce waste and stop using materials that are hard to recycle.
- Decrease climate impacts of manufacturing and disposal of waste.
- Provide funding to operate robust source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting operations across the State.

As with all legislation of this magnitude, its success will hinge on the details of how monies are collected and distributed and the specific requirements of involved parties. It's important to the City to ensure any service agreements for reimbursements cover the full costs of providing robust recycling services for our residents. The City of Bloomington is looking forward to participating as such details are developed.

Thank you for considering S.F. 3561. The City of Bloomington supports passage of this bill as an important tool for the region and the state to achieve statutory recycling, waste diversion, and climate protection goals.

Sincerely,

Tim Busse  
Mayor, City of Bloomington