

April 17, 2024

Senator FOUNG HAWJ, Chair
Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee
3231 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Hawj and Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share written testimony on SF3887-A7, the Senate Environment Supplemental Finance Bill.

The Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) represents fifteen of Minnesota's larger and faster growing counties, including four suburban and eleven Greater Minnesota counties.

County governments play a lead role in solid waste management and are the only entities held to account for meeting state recycling goals. Counties invest significant funding to plan, regulate and operate programs and facilities aimed at increasing recycling and reducing landfilling. Despite these investments, Minnesota's recycling rates have been stuck at 40-45% for many years. State law sets a recycling mandate for metro counties of 75% by 2030.

Among the provisions we support in SF3887-A7 are the following proposals aimed at broadening the strategies for improving solid waste management outcomes:

- **Boat Wrap Product Stewardship** (Article 2, section 15): We support efforts to engage manufacturers to keep boat wrap out of landfills and provide more recycling and reuse options for consumers. Local government stakeholder engagement is also an important part of this plan.
- **Critical Materials Recovery Task Force and End-of-Life Product Stewardship** (Article 2, Section 25): We support this task force, as we recognize the dangers associated with electronic waste's presence in the solid waste stream, and the related risks to the environment and public health. We appreciate that this task force will have more actionable goals to ensure that recommendations will more actively support systems to recycle electronic waste. Finally, it is important that counties, who in many cases are responsible for managing solid waste, have a voice on the Critical Materials Recovery Task Force by including a representative from the Solid Waste Administrators Association.
- **Packaging Waste Reduction** (Article 5): We strongly support the inclusion of the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act in this bill. Counties spend significant resources to keep waste out of our landfills, but more support is needed to increase Minnesota's recycling rates. This provision will build on our state's recycling collection and processing infrastructure by putting more of the onus on producers, rather than only taxpayers, to fund initiatives that will reduce waste in the long run.

As the bill moves forward, we would also support the addition of language from SF3933, now on General Orders in the Senate, a bill that would require local notification, hearing, and approval prior to transferring funds out the statewide Closed Landfill Trust Fund (CLIF) and the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) for uses other than the uses of those funds provided for in law. Alternatively, or in addition to, we support amending Chapter 16A to provide for timely repayment of funds transferred out.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matt Massman', is written in a cursive style.

Matt Massman, *Executive Director*
Minnesota Inter-County Association