



Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association | 125 Charles Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103-2108 | www.mn-swaa.org

April 16, 2024

Re: SF3887 (Hawj) Environment Supplemental Finance Bill

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee:

The Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA) is an organization of county and solid waste district professionals and affiliated waste specialists. SWAA advocates for policies and funding to improve and promote responsible waste management and reduce the environmental impacts of solid waste.

SWAA appreciates the provisions in this legislation that support efforts to reduce and manage waste and address the health and environmental impacts, including banning mercury-containing lighting, composting grants for multi-family housing, and Keep It Clean program. We would like to offer the specific feedback on the following items:

- **Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act** (Article 5, lines 74.1-113.2): Packaging materials represent 40 percent of the waste stream creating management challenges for meeting our waste reduction and recycling goals. This proposal represents the largest policy initiative to reduce waste and increase recycling rates statewide that the legislature has considered in years. It will have waste management and financial benefits for Minnesota residents and local governments currently paying for the recycling system. **SWAA supports passage of the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act as one of our priorities for the 2024 legislative session.**
- **Critical Materials Task Force** (lines 3.30-3.35, 42.28-44.25): SWAA is supportive of coordinated efforts to collect and provide for market development of critical materials. Many of these are collected now as part of our e-waste recycling program but that law is also in need of updates and there are products that fall outside of the current framework of that program. We appreciate having a seat on this task force to contribute our experience working on these issues.
- **Postclosure Care Rulemaking** (lines 42.1-42.9): This provision provides the MPCA Commissioner with a good cause exemption for expedited rulemaking regarding termination of postclosure care requirements. Landfills must fund and address postclosure care requirements for a period of 20 years. There are requirements in place that must be met to exit postclosure care and the MPCA has authority to review and extend that timeline as necessary. SWAA would be happy to engage with the agency and other stakeholders in the standard rulemaking process to assess and make changes to postclosure care policy. **We do not believe that a good-cause exemption has been proven necessary.** This legislation will cause unnecessary, financial hardship for publicly owned landfills and their communities and would bypass the public engagement of the standard rulemaking process.

SWAA appreciates the opportunity to provide you with our perspective on provisions in SF3887 as amended by the DE7. Should you have any questions about the information provided above, or other waste provisions please contact Brian Martinson, AMC Policy Analyst, at bmartinson@mncounties.org or 651-246-4156.

Sincerely,

Drew Hatzenbihler
Morrison County Solid Waste Administrator
President, Solid Waste Administrators Association