



TO: Senate Environment Finance Committee Members

FROM: Jesse McArdell, NMMA; Lee Gatts, WSIA; and Chad Tokowicz, MRAA

DATE: April 18, 2024

RE: Opposition to EPR Provisions

Dear Members of the MN Senate Environment Committee,

On behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), the Watersports Industry Association (WSIA), and the Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA), I am writing to express our opposition to several provisions in the 2024 supplemental budget bill.

By way of introduction, NMMA is the trade association for the U.S. recreational boating industry, representing 1,300 marine businesses, including recreational boat, marine engine, and accessory manufacturers. The recreational boating industry has a \$230 billion impact on the nation's economy, supporting over 800,000 American jobs across 35,000 U.S.-based marine businesses.

WSIA is the towed watersports industry's leading advocate, working to strengthen, grow boating and protect the interests of its member companies and recreational boaters across the country. The WSIA develops best practices, maintains waterway access rights, educates participants, and promotes safety on the water, including when participating in towed watersports. WSIA represents over 440 member companies, including boat, marine engine, and accessory manufacturers, as well as marine dealers.

MRAA is the leading trade association of North American small businesses that sell and service new and used recreational boats and operate marinas, boatyards, and accessory stores. MRAA represents more than 1,300 individual member retail locations and conducts advocacy efforts on their behalf. Minnesota's outdoor recreational community and industry are at serious risk if invasive carp continue to move upriver and spawn.

Thank you for your work in crafting this omnibus bill and for your consideration of important environmental investments. As you know, our state's natural resources are crucial to our economy and way of life, and we must do all we can to protect and preserve them.

We commend the efforts reflected in the omnibus bill to promote recycling. However, we are concerned that certain aspects of the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act may be overly restrictive. While we wholeheartedly support waste reduction and recycling initiatives, the proposed one-size-fits-all solution for packaging types with diverse recycling needs, as outlined in Senate File 3561, could impose undue financial burdens on Minnesota's small marine businesses.

Instead, we propose that the committee consider supporting incentives for businesses and the public to reduce landfill waste without artificially inflating manufacturing and consumer costs. Moreover, we urge

the exploration of leveraging the existing Solid Waste Management Tax, which generates over \$100 million annually, to bolster and enhance the state's solid waste infrastructure. Additionally, expanding proven public education programs can foster greater participation in recycling efforts.

Lastly, any extended producer responsibility requirements should align with a coordinated national effort. Adhering to these principles will better facilitate the achievement of waste reduction goals without adversely impacting marine businesses.

Sincerely,

Jesse McArdell

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Chad Tokowicz

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