

April 28, 2024

Senator John Marty, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3235 Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Marty and Senate Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share written testimony on SF3887, the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Supplemental Budget 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. Despite significant county investments to plan and operate programs and facilities aimed at increasing recycling and reducing landfilling, Minnesota's recycling rates have been stuck at around 40-45%. With state law mandating recycling for metro counties of 75% and 35% for counties in Greater Minnesota by 2030, more tools are needed to improve recycling outcomes. We urge support provisions of SF3887, including:

- **Boat Wrap Product Stewardship,**
- **Critical Materials Recovery Task Force and End-of-Life Product Stewardship, and**
- **Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act (Article 5).**

In particular, the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act would provide an essential shift in the incentives needed to promote recycling and waste reduction by engaging packaging and paper product producers into the accountability framework. In doing so, the shared responsibility model would leverage existing solid waste infrastructure and processes while moderating pressures on local taxpayers to fund increasing costs to achieve recycling goals.

Thank you for your consideration.



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