



March 13, 2024

**Re: Support for SF 3561 - Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act**

Chair Dziedzic and members of the Senate State and Local Government Finance and Veterans Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities, on behalf of its 838 member cities, appreciates the opportunity to submit comments supporting the passage of SF 3561. We are grateful to Sen. Morrison and the bill proponents for the time and effort they have put in to deal with city concerns over potential impacts on city solid waste management contractual arrangements with haulers. Those matters are addressed by the amendment being offered today by Sen. Morrison. With its adoption, the League is able to support the bill, which aligns with both *SD-28. Organized Solid Waste Collection* and *SD-67. Environmental Protection* in the LMC 2024 City Policies.

While our county partners generally play the lead role in solid waste planning and management, cities in many cases play direct roles in making sure those county plans are implemented. The new structure of contractual work between PROs and haulers created potential problems in situations where cities, as service providers, directly contract with haulers for organized residential solid waste services, as well as other recycling, composting, and organics collection.

The Sen. Morrison amendment to SF 3561 clarifies that organized collection contracts can continue to be managed and developed under existing state processes in Mn Stat §115A.94. That option is used by a number of cities to manage their responsibilities related to solid waste management while meeting local priorities for services, cost, traffic, noise, and other issues and we appreciate that it will continue to be available.

Thank you for your time and attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig A. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig A Johnson  
Intergovernmental Relations Representative  
League of Minnesota Cities