



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

March 19, 2024

Re: SF3561 Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act

Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

The Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA) is an organization of county and solid waste district professionals and affiliated waste specialists and is an affiliate of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), which represents all 87 Minnesota counties.

SWAA support product stewardship among manufacturers, retailers, and consumers, with an emphasis on industry through an Extended Producer Responsibility framework.

For the 2024 session SWAA has prioritized action to move the dial on a significant segment of the waste stream – packaging. We support a producer-led material reduction, reuse, repair, and recycling program, to reduce a product's life cycle impacts, impacts on the environment and public health, and that is consistent with the Minnesota Waste Hierarchy. A hierarchy that priorities reduction and reuse or waste and urges us away from landfilling.

EPR must include transparency and accountability measures, maximize and build off of existing infrastructure, and provide local governments with a voluntary role in development and displaces taxpayer funding for recycling and reuse. While some argue that displacing taxpayer funding does not mean taking the burden off of taxpayers – consumers have a choice of what products and businesses to support. And we prompt you to think about the cost of not supporting climate and sustainability action – what is the cost to the environment, infrastructure, public health, and agriculture to not prioritize resilience?

We support the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act and believe it will lead to improved recyclability of product packaging, a reduction in packaging waste, and incentivize sustainable packaging choices – all of which are necessary for our state to meet our state's waste goals, and climate goals such as "Clean Economy" outlined in Minnesota's Climate Action Framework.

If you have any waste related questions specific to your jurisdiction, please feel free to reach out. SWAA encourages your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Brian Martinson, Government Relations
Solid Waste Administrators Association