

March 26, 2024

Senator Ann Rest  
Chair of the Committee on Taxes

Re: SF 4982— Dibble: Resource management account dedication increase provision

Dear Taxes Committee members,

The Solid Waste Management Tax and SCORE program was originally created in 1989 to help support recycling programs in the State. Since that time, city and county programs have moved well beyond traditional can, bottle and paper recycling to also include waste reduction, reuse, repair, organics recycling, and recycling of other specialty items like electronics, appliances, mattresses and even building materials.

Due to its own County Solid Waste Management fee, Hennepin County chooses to pass 100% of the SCORE funding it receives onto its cities. While we greatly appreciate the support to help off set costs for recycling, it should be noted that the amount of funding we receive does not cover the cost of the recycling program. In 2023, Minneapolis spent \$4.2 million just to collect recyclables. This does not include the cost for program administration, outreach and education. In 2023, we received \$1.5 million from the SCORE program.

As waste diversion goals increase and project and program expectations increase to meet the goals, increased funding has not followed suit. The Resource management account dedication increase provision bill would help provide additional funding needed to support these advanced goals, projects and programs. By redirecting the remaining 27% of SCORE funds back to its intended purpose, an additional \$30 million is estimated to be sent to counties, and in some cases like ours, passed on to cities each year.

Lastly, we want to acknowledge that this funding alone is not enough. We want to reiterate our support for the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act (SF 3561/HF 3577) to hold manufacturers of packaging and paper products accountable for the waste they create and distribute into Minnesota. The adoption of these two bills will allow funding currently used for recycling programs to be used to support waste reduction, reuse, repair, and recycling of more challenging materials thus reducing our reliance on waste-to-energy facilities and landfills.

Please support Minnesota's waste reduction, reuse and recycling programs by passing the Resource management account dedication increase provision (SF 4982/HF 4915).

Sincerely,



David A. Herberholz, Director  
Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling