



March 26, 2024

Chair Rest and Members of the Senate Taxes Committee:

Conservation Minnesota urges your support for SF4982 (Dibble), which over several years, returns the revenues from the Solid Waste Management Tax to one of its originally intended purposes – to help counties reduce solid waste through SCORE grants.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency uses Solid Waste Management Tax revenues for several important purposes, including County Waste Reduction and Recycling Funding, aka SCORE grants. Minnesota Statutes 115A.557 defines permissible expenditures from this funding source to include:

- (1) reduce the amount of solid waste generated;
- (2) recycle the maximum amount of solid waste technically feasible;
- (3) create and support markets for recycled products;
- (4) remove problem materials from the solid waste stream and develop proper disposal options for them;
- (5) inform and educate all sectors of the public about proper solid waste management procedures;
- (6) provide technical assistance to public and private entities to ensure proper solid waste management;
- (7) provide educational, technical, and financial assistance for litter prevention;
- (8) process mixed municipal solid waste generated in the county at a resource recovery facility located in Minnesota;
- (9) compost source-separated compostable materials, including the provision of receptacles for residential composting;
- (10) prevent food waste or collect and transport food donated to humans or to be fed to animals; and
- (11) process source-separated compostable materials that are to be used to produce class I or class II compost, as defined in Minnesota Rules, part [7035.2836](#), after being processed in an anaerobic digester, but not to construct buildings or acquire equipment.

SCORE funding has been a critical piece of our solid waste management solutions since 1989, when Minnesota's SCORE laws were passed. Thanks to SCORE funding, Minnesota has refined its waste management programs to be a national leader in recycling.

Conversely, SCORE reporting has also helped us understand the gravity of our current waste crisis, where the sheer tonnage is no longer manageable through previous models. As has been done for three decades, counties will use the SCORE funding to develop better, more resilient waste management processes.



**CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA**

In this era of e-commerce and increased consumer waste and packaging, counties need SCORE funding to help their communities reduce solid waste. We kindly ask for your support of SF4982 (Dibble).

Sincerely,

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