



**“To promote a zero-waste society that advocates for reducing waste, sustainably reusing resources and less landfill use.”**

March 26, 2024

**Senate Tax Committee**

**SF 4982 (Dibble);** Resource management account dedication increase provision.

Dear Chair Rest and Tax Committee Members:

The Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRA) represents 1/3 of Minnesota counties in their solid waste management and recycling needs and we ask for your support of **SF 4982 (Dibble)**, to amend the Solid Waste Management tax revenue allocation.

- **MRRA Supports Efforts to Permanently Increase SCORE Grants (SF 4982).** SF 4982 advances our 2024 legislative priorities agenda in support of efforts “to allocate all revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) to waste management activities and increase SCORE funding.”
- **MRRA fully supports the long-established waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle toward achieving ‘zero-waste’ goals and minimal landfill disposal.** Less than 20 percent of the state Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) revenue is allocated to county SCORE grants even though state law assigns counties lead responsibility. Further, those SCORE grant funding levels have remained relatively flat, and well below normal inflation. By comparison, 30 percent of SWMT revenue, or about \$30 million, is dedicated to the General Fund. Ironically, that General Fund portion has been increasing each year as, unfortunately, solid waste streams and landfill deposits have also continued to grow and outpace the recycling and landfill diversion work.

We appreciate the action taken in 2023 to increase SCORE grant funding by 3 percent. However, with that increase, grants remain well below county investments needed to meet state recycling goals. Expanding organics collection, reduction and recycling work and expanding local markets for recycled material can cost tens of millions in infrastructure and operating expenses. Many counties report spending two to four times their SCORE allocation and still experience lost recycling opportunities due to cost constraints.

Fully dedicating General Fund SWMT revenues to SCORE grants will support a more sustainable path forward for reducing waste streams and achieving state recycling goals. MRRRA stands ready to work with policymakers, state agencies, communities, and the private sector to take action on public and environmental health issues in 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'n' followed by a horizontal line.

Chris McConn, P.E.

MRRRA Chair

<http://mnresourcerecovery.com/>