

March 22, 2024

Dear Chairperson and members,

I am reaching out to you today to express support for SF 4982, regarding SCORE funding allocation.

The City of St. Louis Park has an established organized waste collection program that provides convenient access to recycling and organics recycling service for over 12,300 households.

Each year the city receives funding through an agreement with Hennepin County to supplement the cost of providing recycling and organics education and collection service to our residents. These funds are derived from SCORE funding received from revenues collected through the state's Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) on residential and commercial waste generators.

However, the funds don't adequately cover the cost to provide education or collection for recycling programs. As program requirements have expanded and recycling goals increased, funding hasn't kept pace. SF 4982 would allow for additional, much needed funding to be allocated to collection, education and waste reduction efforts.

The state of Minnesota has a legislatively mandated goal that 75% of waste be recycled by 2030. SCORE funding is essential to providing the services needed to help the state meet this goal. The funds that are passed on through SCORE grants, and then to cities, are vital in reducing the cost to provide essential recycling and organics recycling services to residents, plus the ongoing education that will be needed as the waste stream evolves.

While we are proud of the progress we've made on waste reduction in St. Louis Park, enhanced education and outreach efforts will be necessary to achieve the state's 75% recycling goal by 2030. Current state allocations to SCORE grants have not kept pace with state recycling goals. If passed, senate file 4982 will make a significant difference in the ability of municipalities to reduce the financial burden on residents and successfully implement programs and policies to achieve waste reduction goals.

Thank you for your consideration and support. Please feel free to contact Kala Fisher, deputy public works director, at [kfisher@stlouisparkmn.gov](mailto:kfisher@stlouisparkmn.gov) or 952.924.2183 with questions.

Sincerely,



Kim Keller, city manager

cc: Senator Ron Latz