



CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA

April 30, 2024

Chair Rest and Members of the Senate Taxes Committee:

Conservation Minnesota thanks the Chair and Committee Members for the additional one-time dedication of SCORE grants in FY25 to support counties' recycling and solid waste reduction efforts. The additional resources will help return a portion of 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.

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. The diversion of some of the revenue from the Solid Waste Management Tax almost 20 years ago has left the increasing burden of paying for trash and recycling services to counties and residents.

Additionally, 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.

In this era of e-commerce and increased consumer waste and packaging, counties need SCORE funding to help their communities reduce solid waste. Thank you again for the one-time dedication.

Sincerely,
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