



March 31, 2025

Subject: SF1690 SUPPORT

Chair Klein and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

Clean Water Action is a national organization that was formed to pass the Clean Water Act in 1972. With offices across the country, we represent hundreds of thousands of members dedicated to protecting the quality of our most vital resource – water. Our goal is to ensure that all water is drinkable, swimmable, and fishable for generations to come. I am writing on behalf of our Minnesota members to support Senate File 1690. We are grateful to Senator Kupec for bringing this important bill forward.

This legislation will establish a robust electronic waste (e-waste) recycling program in Minnesota. We have a critical need to address the growing problem of e-waste in a sustainable manner. Electronic waste is one of the fastest-growing waste streams in the world, posing serious environmental and health risks due to the hazardous materials found in many electronic devices. Currently, too much e-waste ends up in landfills or is improperly handled, leading to contamination of our soil, water, and air. SF1690 will help mitigate these risks by ensuring that Minnesota has a comprehensive, accessible, and efficient system for recycling electronics.

This legislation will:

- Enhance consumer awareness and participation by making e-waste recycling more accessible and convenient.
- Reduce pollution and protect Minnesota's natural resources by keeping toxic materials out of landfills and water sources.
- Promote responsible recycling practices that recover valuable materials, reducing the need for virgin resource extraction.
- Support local economies by fostering a strong e-waste recycling industry and creating jobs.
- Prevent costly contamination cleanup efforts by proactively keeping heavy metals and PFAS out of our soil and water. Prevention is far more cost-effective than remediation, as addressing pollution after the fact places a significant financial burden on taxpayers, local governments, and businesses. By implementing a strong recycling program, we can reduce these long-term costs and protect public health.

Minnesota has long been a leader in environmental stewardship, and passing SF1690 will reinforce our commitment to sustainable waste management. I appreciate your leadership, and I humbly urge the committee to advance this important legislation and help ensure a cleaner, healthier future for all Minnesotans. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Avonna Starck
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