



408 Saint Peter Street, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55102

PHONE 651 225 0878

EMAIL info@fresh-energy.org

WEBSITE fresh-energy.org

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The Honorable Matt Klein
Chair, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2105
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Klein and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts in support of Senate File 1690.

Climate change is an unprecedented challenge, and meeting this moment requires an economy-wide approach. While conversations around climate solutions are often focused on the promise of various energy technologies, achieving genuine carbon neutrality is going to require a broader set of strategies for achieving carbon reduction at scale across all sectors. Importantly, this includes maximizing the elimination of waste across our economy.

In particular, electronic waste presents both a growing challenge and an opportunity. According to a recent study from the University of California, Irvine, greenhouse gas emissions from electronics increased by 53 percent in just a six year period (2014-2020) and will likely continue to increase rapidly without significant policy intervention¹. Additionally, electronic waste causes significant public harm beyond impacts on our climate. Another study found that people living in regions exposed to electronic waste were found to have elevated levels of heavy metals and organic pollutants in their blood stream, with children and pregnant women especially vulnerable².

We also recognize that our electronic waste stream includes a variety of materials that could be reused in a variety of clean energy applications – recovering batteries and similar resources can help alleviate the need for new resource extraction.

Senate File 1690 would establish a stewardship program for addressing Minnesota's electronic waste. This program builds on Minnesota's existing electronic waste law, expanding its scope and dramatically improving accessibility, while creating job opportunities for local economies. We believe that this approach would be an effective and prudent way to address our growing electronic waste challenge.

For these reasons, we recommend that members support Senate File 1690.

Sincerely,

Justin Fay
Chief Advocacy Officer, Fresh Energy

¹ [UCI study finds 53 percent jump in e-waste greenhouse gas emissions between 2014, 2020 – UC Irvine News](#)

² [Health consequences of exposure to e-waste: an updated systematic review - PMC](#)