



March 21, 2025

***Sent via Email**

Senator Nick Frentz, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3109
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for anaerobic digester energy system ([SF 1037](#))

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Committee:

Olmsted County has expressed interest in processing organics from residents and businesses utilizing anaerobic digestion. The proposed Dem-Con HZI Bioenergy, LLC (DC/HZI) located in Shakopee, Minnesota, would meet this need. Olmsted County recognizes and encourages innovative solutions to reduce waste and move material up the solid waste management hierarchy.

This project could add to Olmsted County's efforts to rethink waste as a resource. The most prominent material in our overall waste stream is organic waste, which accounts for 47% of the waste stream, 20% of which is food waste by weight. The county anticipates we would produce approximately 12,000 tons of organic waste per year that would be available for processing at an anaerobic digester facility.

The proposed DC/HZI digester provides the critical infrastructure needed for organics processing through an innovative solution by producing renewable natural gas (RNG) in Minnesota. Specifically, the DC/HZI digester will process up to 70,000 tons of organic waste, creating 170,000 MMBtu of RNG per year, 10,000 tons of biochar, and reducing over 30,000 tons per year of CO2 equivalent. The RNG provides a renewable energy source with the biochar being used to sequester carbon, both of which help meet the state's climate initiatives.

Olmsted County's Department of Environmental Resources supports the development of the DC/HZI digester. If you have any questions or would like additional information about our initiatives, please reach out to me at 507-328-7574.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Cathy Hall

3/21/2025 | 3:36 PM CDT

Director of Environmental Resources
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