



Senator Fount Hawj
Chair - Environment, Climate and Legacy
3231 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Hawj:

The Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Board (R&E) is pleased to offer our support for SF 506, the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund Appropriation. The bill carries a number of excellent projects focused on improving our air, water, and environmental quality. R&E is pleased that the rigorous review process undertaken by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources resulted in a recommendation to provide \$5.167 million in funding to support our innovative solution to create renewable energy from food waste.

The proposed R&E project will process over 80,000 tons of food and other organic waste annually from homes and businesses into renewable natural gas (RNG) using a robustly vetted technology called anaerobic digestion. The project will also create a marketable biochar, which is used to amend and remediate soils and sequester carbon. The biochar process also allows for a first-of-its-kind potential mitigation solution to PFAS in the waste stream.

The project, to be located at the Dem-Con Environmental Campus in Scott County, will turn food scraps from a liability to a valuable community asset by creating about 170,000 MMBtu of renewable natural gas and 10,000 tons of biochar annually. Diverting food scraps from landfills and incinerators prevents greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by about 30,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) annually, equivalent to removing over 6,000 cars from the road. This project will help to meet state renewable energy, climate and waste diversion goals and achieve environmental, economic and community benefits for the Twin Cities area, the state and region.

The impact of food waste on the climate is increasingly understood as a high priority in decarbonizing our waste system. Food scraps make up over 20% of household trash and in landfills food waste is responsible for 170 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (million MTCO₂e) GHG emissions annually.



This project is a critical step forward in developing a sustainable waste management system that is protective of Minnesota's environment and natural resources and provides clean, local energy resources for the next generation. R&E is thrilled to see it included and asks the committee to support SF 506.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo McGuire

Commissioner MaryJo McGuire
Chair
Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Board
Ramsey County Commissioner, District 2