



March 6, 2025

RE: SF1690 (Kupec)

Chair Hawj, and members of the Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee:

Conservation Minnesota writes to you today to express our support for SF1690 (Kupec), which would establish a stewardship program for circuit boards, batteries, and other electronic waste. Stewardship programs like this are an important tool for cleaning up our solid waste stream and creating more corporate responsibility for end-of-life care of products.

Minnesota's current e-waste law was passed in 2007, well before much of the technology we rely on today was widely available. As written, the law covers a small set of mostly obsolete electronic products, including fax machines, video cassette recorders, and cathode ray tubes. It does not cover things like smart phones, LCD or LED TVs, and other technology that has become ubiquitous in our modern lives.

SF1690 (Kupec) brings our electronic waste law up to date, expanding the scope to capture more of these products. The bill establishes a stewardship organization, a non-profit entity which will support producers in meeting these new standards by creating a stewardship plan, paying out reimbursements, and otherwise facilitating the program. By having producers pay into a stewardship program, they will develop a greater sense of responsibility for the end-life of their products, which should spark innovation in product design and waste treatment.

A better system for taking care of electronic waste serves several environmental needs. Firstly, it keeps our waste stream free of chemicals and toxics that contaminate recyclable and reusable products and lead to dangerous fires at waste facilities and on trucks. Better separating these products will also enable us to extract the still-useful materials and minerals in electronics, while keeping harmful chemicals away from landfills and our environment.

In summary, Conservation Minnesota supports SF1690 (Kupec) as an important step on the path towards a safe, modern, and responsible electronic waste system that matches the needs of our current needs.

Sincerely,  
Nels Paulsen  
Policy Director  
[nels@conservationminnesota.org](mailto:nels@conservationminnesota.org)

James Lehner  
Policy Associate  
[james@conservationminnesota.org](mailto:james@conservationminnesota.org)