



Chair Fong Hawj
95 University Ave. W
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3231
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Justin Eichorn
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2235
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hawj, Ranking Member Eichorn and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Inter-County Association's (MICA) 17 member counties, we are writing in support of SF 1690, which provides a much-needed update to Minnesota's electronics waste collection law by establishing a product stewardship program for electronics waste (e-waste), batteries and circuit boards.

County support for product stewardship stems from our own investments in innovative approaches to solid waste management, based on the waste management hierarchy as defined in Minn. Stat. §115A.02, which prioritizes waste reduction and recycling activities. However, manufacturers and producers are uniquely positioned to help mitigate the end-of-life disposal of hazardous products like e-waste and batteries currently in our waste stream. MICA supports and appreciates the significant steps taken in 2024 aimed at reducing the quantity of packaging waste entering landfills, as well as the creation of a Critical Materials Recovery Advisory Task Force to bring forward recommendations on how to recover critical materials from end-of-life products. SF 1690 represents a reasonable next step in extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation to ensure all stakeholders are involved in mitigating the environmental consequences of our growing waste problem.

With MICA counties managing over 44% of the waste generated in the state¹, we are especially aware of the risks posed by electronics that end up in landfills or other waste management facilities. These metals can leak and contaminate the soil and groundwater, with lithium-ion batteries having sparked fires at sorting stations and landfills across the state. All Minnesotans should live in an environment with clean air, clean water, and unpolluted land, regardless of their geographic location or household income. We hope that you will support SF 1690 and ensure that Minnesota is leading the way in removing some of the most toxic products from the waste stream.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Nathan Jesson'.

Nathan Jesson
Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Rachel Sosnowchik'.

Rachel Sosnowchik
Environmental Liaison
Minnesota Inter-County Association

¹ Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 2022 SCORE Report