



Minnesota
Environmental
Partnership

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Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Chair Fong Hawj

Dear Chair Hawj and members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership and the organizations listed below, I would like to express our coalition's strong support for SF 1690, the electronic waste stewardship bill. This bipartisan bill will help Minnesota deal with one of our thorniest environmental challenges while creating jobs and recycling important materials.

Minnesota has had an e-waste law on the books since 2007, but it is outdated and only addresses a fraction of Minnesota's 133 million pounds of e-waste generated annually. Many Minnesotans have no convenient way to safely dispose of most of their electronics, which end up in landfills or incinerators or scattered across our landscape.

While e-waste is only a small portion of our overall waste stream, it has an outsized and growing impact. Electronic devices and lithium batteries are prone to start fires, threatening the safety of sanitation workers and communities and costing municipal budgets. Heavy metals, especially lead, can leach from this into groundwater, creating a growing threat to public health.

By removing these electronic devices and batteries from our waste stream, we can both prevent these hazards to our health and environment and secure precious recyclable materials for commercial use. The materials in Minnesota's e-waste stream have an estimated annual value of \$2.8 billion if recovered.

SF 1690 takes an effective approach to recovering these minerals, providing for the creation of a stewardship organization for producers to be part of the solution to electronic waste. It will allow all Minnesotans to access free and convenient drop off for their electronic waste, ensuring that every corner of the state will be able to reap the environmental and economic benefits of the program.

We appreciate the significant work from stakeholders to craft SF 1690, a bill far more comprehensive and effective than Minnesota's 2007 e-waste law. This legislation will enable our state to finally tackle a problem rapidly growing in our homes, landfills, and communities.

We thank the bipartisan team of authors who have put SF 1690 forward and we urge this committee to advance it to the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

Steve Morse
Executive Director

Submitted on behalf of the organizations listed on the following page.

Austin Coalition for Environmental Sustainability

Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota

CURE MN

Eureka Recycling

Friends of the Boundary Waters

Isaak Walton League Minnesota Division

League of Women Voters Duluth

League of Women Voters Minnesota

Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

MN350

Resilient Cities and Communities

Save Our Sky Blue Waters

Vote Climate