



March 6, 2025

Minnesota Senate
Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee

Re: Electronic Waste (SF1690)

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition and our community partners listed below, we are writing in support of SF1690.

The Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition is an alliance of Minnesota-based environmental organizations, environmental justice advocates, sustainable waste service providers, and community members committed to advancing a future for Minnesota without waste. **This bill supports equitable access to electronics and battery recycling and is needed to help us build a zero waste future for Minnesotans.**

Legislation enacted in 2007 only supported about 20 million pounds of collection in 2020, falling far short from the estimated 133 million pounds generated yearly. This means the majority of electronic waste is improperly disposed of. Without proper disposal, we are putting the health and well-being of residents and our environment at risk.

Though e-waste only makes up 2-3% of municipal solid waste by weight, it represents almost 70% of lead present in landfills. Batteries in landfills, transfer stations, and recycling and waste streams cause fires. In May of 2023, Rice County experienced a large fire caused by a battery in their landfill that burned for 5 days and polluted the air with smoke largely from burning plastic. This is just one of countless examples of electronics, improperly disposed of, causing fires. Our tax dollars are being used to clean up messes from improper e-waste disposal and our neighbors are burdened with the cost to their health.

Capturing our electronic waste should be a top priority for our state, not only to keep this stream out of landfills and incinerators but to recapture the precious metals and reduce the need for extractive methods of metals production. SF1690 will provide universal, free drop off for ALL electronic waste and demystify the process for consumers.

We are happy to provide additional information and appreciate your consideration of our comments. You can learn more about the MN Zero Waste Coalition at www.mnzerowaste.org.

The following Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition Members & Partners sign-on to this letter:

Beyond Plastics Greater Mankato Area
Clean Water Action Minnesota
Climate Generation
Coalition for Plastic Reduction
Cooperative Energy Futures
CURE
Elder Climate Action Twin Cities
Eureka Recycling
Friends of the Boundary Waters
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability
Izaak Walton League of America, Minnesota Division
League of Women Voters Minnesota
Lutefisk Technologies, Inc. - Ely, MN
Lutheran Advocacy Minnesota
Lynnhurst Environmental Committee
Mankato Area Zero Waste
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Minnesota Environmental Justice Table
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
Northeast Metro Climate Action
Northwest Metro Climate Action
Recycling Electronics for Climate Action
Save Lake Superior Association
Save Our Sky Blue Waters
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
St Luke Presbyterian Church - Minnetonka, MN
The Swap Closet
Toxyfree - Stillwater, MN
Vadnais Heights Green Team
WaterLegacy