



April 3, 2025

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

Senator Steve Green
Republican Lead
Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy
Committee

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, a statewide organization representing more than 6,300 businesses and their more than half a million employees, supports certain provisions and opposes others in SF2077, the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy omnibus policy bill.

The Chamber supports the following:

- Using the Environmental Fund to benefit permitting efficiency. For example, SF2077 funds, among other provisions, accountability, addressing backlogged permits, supporting regulatory business processes, and developing tools to improve permitting;
- Funding Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) regulatory services; and
- Funding Clean Air Minnesota, a partnership of government, nonprofits, and the private sector to find voluntary solutions that reduce air pollution.

We appreciate the inclusion of these provisions in the bill.

However, we respectfully oppose the following:

- Creating a new extended producer responsibility system for electronic waste recycling: This creates another business mandate that will pass expenses on to the consumer. While other states have product stewardship programs for electronic waste, none have product definitions defined as broadly. This EPR program layers on top of another created last biennium for paper and packaging. Addressing the two percent of our waste stream comprised of electronics is imperative to take financial pressures off counties, but creating a product stewardship program of this size and scope is unnecessary and will drive consumers to purchase electronics outside of Minnesota.
- Establishing a new authority for the state to ticket facility owners and operators seeking environmental permits: Permit engineers may be unable to turn around agency requested details after application submission on the most aggressive of timelines. Applicants making a good faith effort to comply with a new request from the agency, that was not part of the original submission, may require subcontracting testing or modeling, which requires time and cost. Punishing applicants for these arbitrary timelines would continue to chill business growth and investment in Minnesota.
- Increasing water appropriation fees: In some cases, the cost would nearly double overnight should this language be enacted. Instead of enacting arbitrary increases in statute, the Chamber and our members prefer a rulemaking process that's transparent to the public and offers all parties time to participate.

- Creating a new civil action against private businesses: While we understand the importance of recouping costs for local governments, this creates a new level of uncertainty and potentially problematic court-required awards.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Morley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Morley
Director, Environmental Policy
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
amorley@mnchamber.com
763-221-7523