



Association of Minnesota Counties

125 Charles Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55103-2108 | www.mncounties.org

April 8, 2025

Re: S.F. 2077 (Hawj) Environment and Natural Resources Appropriations – A4-DE Amendment

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

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), a voluntary association representing all 87 counties, we appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts on the committee omnibus budget proposal, SF2077 A4-DE amendment.

AMC appreciates the work of the committee this session in reviewing many proposals and putting together solid budget recommendations that keep Minnesota moving forward, despite having to reduce general fund spending in the coming biennium.

We are especially happy to see the inclusion of the E-waste and Battery Product Stewardship proposal, Article 6. This is a much-needed update of our existing e-waste and battery laws under MS Chapter 115A, which are no longer meeting the needs of Minnesota residents, businesses or local governments. These reforms have been sought for numerous years and repeatedly resisted by industry, but growing issues of public safety and environmental health tied to these products require action, not more delays.

Counties appreciate that the committee was able to maintain \$500,000 of the annual increase for the County Feedlot Program. This is an important water quality program with increasing work loads and responsibilities to implement.

We are also glad to see additional investments in recycling and composting grants and the Closed Landfill Investment Fund allocation adjustment that was requested by the Pollution Control Agency.

There are two items that we believe still need some work. The report on Wetland Conservation Act decision extensions should have dates based on the calendar year, rather than the fiscal year to match the current reporting requirements. We also believe that if counties are going to be allowed to by ordinance maintain a shotgun zone for the deer hunting season, they should not need to pass it on an annual basis.

Thank you for considering our perspective on your committee budget proposal.

Sincerely,



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