

April 30, 2025

Senator Fount Hawj
Chair, Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
3231 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: S.F. 2781, Environment and Natural Resources Policy Omnibus Bill

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

The Partnership strongly supports legislative action to update the state's outdated electronic waste recycling law and various battery laws to reduce costs and increase recycling convenience for consumers, relieve burdens and risks faced by counties and taxpayers, and put responsibility for managing these products on the industries designing and producing them. These products must be kept out of the mixed municipal solid waste stream and disposal facilities to reduce waste toxicity and prevent risks to the environment and public health, as well as recover valuable products and essential materials for reuse and recycling. Waste facilities are seeing more fires from lithium-ion batteries being placed in trash and recycling and are struggling to manage the associated liability issues.

The proposal in S.F. 2781 is designed around our residents who lack accessibility to collection options and quality information on which products need to be kept out of trash and recycling bins and brought to a site for recycling or safe management.

The Partnership appreciates the important work done this session to protect public health and the environment and to help counties and communities be more successful in reaching challenging statutory waste management goals. We stand ready to work together on this and other important issues for the benefit of our communities and the state.

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board consisting of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties, formed to address waste management and energy issues. The Partnership seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of the communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Fran Miron, Washington County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy