

April 24, 2025

The Honorable John Marty
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Minnesota Senate
3235 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Marty:

Thank you for hearing SF 2077, the 2025 Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy omnibus. I appreciate the thoughtful and collaborative process that led to this bill in the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee and I value the opportunity to partner with members and staff to develop a bill that delivers for Minnesota's environment and economy.

I would like to express my gratitude to Senator Hawj and committee members for incorporating many of the Governor's recommendations in SF 2077. These include:

- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) **operating adjustment**, which ensures that MPCA can continue to provide the level of service that the Legislature has directed, and that Minnesotans expect.
- **Permitting reform** provisions that will help the agency continue to protect the environment and human health while providing greater permitting efficiency for regulated parties.
- **Electronic waste and battery stewardship**, an initiative that will bring financial relief to counties while simplifying electronics recycling for consumers.
- Other appropriations and policy language that will benefit Minnesotans, such as reducing the use of **mercury in skin-lightening creams**.
- Funds to address a large backlog of contaminated **site assessments** (\$700,000 from the Remediation Fund)

I'm also pleased that SF 2077 supports the MPCA's efforts to directly engage with more communities and in more languages. All Minnesotans deserve healthy air, land, and water – as well as the opportunity to understand and participate in decisions about environmental protections.

I look forward to working with the author and members to continue conversations on some of the Governor's recommendations that are not represented in the bill, including:

- Dedicated staff to support the emerging **Sustainable Aviation Fuel** industry (\$1.4 million from the Environmental Fund)
- Efforts to reduce landfilling of **wasted food** and support redirecting food to higher-value uses, including feeding Minnesotans (\$700,000 from the Environmental Fund)
- Closure of a loophole that hinders **recovery of costs for cleanup** of certain spills and releases (no net cost; estimated savings of \$400,000)

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Finally, there are alterations to our budget structure in SF2077 that the MPCA would like to continue to discuss and work through. These items include:

- Further clarification to legislative language regarding MPCA's **access to the Closed Landfill Investment Fund (CLIF)**
- Appropriations historically from the General Fund that have been moved into the Environmental fund.

Thank you to members and staff of the Senate Finance committee as we build on the good work to date and further develop this important bill for Minnesota's environment and economy. I look forward to our work together in the coming days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katrina Kessler". The script is cursive and fluid.

This document has been electronically signed.

Katrina Kessler, P.E.

Commissioner