



Chair Tou Xiong
95 University Ave. W
3203 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Andrew Lang
95 University Avenue W.
2205 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Xiong, Ranking Member Lang and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Inter-County Association's (MICA) 17 member counties, we are writing in support of SF 1690, which provides a much-needed update to Minnesota's electronics waste collection law by establishing a product stewardship program for electronics waste (e-waste), batteries and circuit boards.

County support for product stewardship stems from our own investments in innovative approaches to solid waste management, prioritizing waste reduction and recycling activities. However, manufacturers and producers are uniquely positioned to help mitigate the end-of-life disposal of hazardous products like e-waste and batteries currently in our waste stream. MICA supports and appreciates the significant steps taken in 2024 aimed at reducing the quantity of packaging waste entering landfills, as well as the creation of a Critical Materials Recovery Advisory Task Force to bring forward recommendations on how to recover critical materials from end-of-life products. SF 1690 represents a reasonable next step in extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation to ensure all stakeholders are involved in mitigating the environmental consequences of our growing waste problem.

Counties consistently spend significantly more on managing solid waste than we receive from existing state funding sources like the solid waste management tax (SWMT). While Minnesota has an e-waste law in place, current statutes are outdated, with counties shouldering most of the financial and operational burdens for keeping e-waste of landfills and disposal facilities. Counties are left to try and keep up with a rapidly evolving battery and electronics market by implementing their own ordinances and safety protocols, but this inconsistent approach only creates confusion for consumers and increases costs for local governments. Legislative action is needed to ensure that the industries responsible for designing and producing batteries and electronics have a share in the cost for managing these products, and we recommend the advancement of SF 1690 to relieve the burden and risk on counties and local taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Nathan Jesson
Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association

Rachel Sosnowchik
Environmental Liaison
Minnesota Inter-County Association