



March 6, 2025

Minnesota Senate  
Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee

**Re: Electronic Waste (SF1690)**

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition and our community partners listed below, we are writing in support of SF1690.

The Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition is an alliance of Minnesota-based environmental organizations, environmental justice advocates, sustainable waste service providers, and community members committed to advancing a future for Minnesota without waste. **This bill supports equitable access to electronics and battery recycling and is needed to help us build a zero waste future for Minnesotans.**

Legislation enacted in 2007 only supported about 20 million pounds of collection in 2020, falling far short from the estimated 133 million pounds generated yearly. This means the majority of electronic waste is improperly disposed of. Without proper disposal, we are putting the health and well-being of residents and our environment at risk.

Though e-waste only makes up 2-3% of municipal solid waste by weight, it represents almost 70% of lead present in landfills. Batteries in landfills, transfer stations, and recycling and waste streams cause fires. In May of 2023, Rice County experienced a large fire caused by a battery in their landfill that burned for 5 days and polluted the air with smoke largely from burning plastic. This is just one of countless examples of electronics, improperly disposed of, causing fires. Our tax dollars are being used to clean up messes from improper e-waste disposal and our neighbors are burdened with the cost to their health.

Capturing our electronic waste should be a top priority for our state, not only to keep this stream out of landfills and incinerators but to recapture the precious metals and reduce the need for extractive methods of metals production. SF1690 will provide universal, free drop off for ALL electronic waste and demystify the process for consumers.

We are happy to provide additional information and appreciate your consideration of our comments. You can learn more about the MN Zero Waste Coalition at [www.mnzerowaste.org](http://www.mnzerowaste.org).

**The following Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition Members & Partners sign-on to this letter:**

Apple Valley Eco Advocates  
Beyond Plastics Greater Mankato Area  
Clean Water Action Minnesota  
Climate Generation  
Coalition for Plastic Reduction  
Cooperative Energy Futures  
CURE  
Elder Climate Action Twin Cities  
Eureka Recycling  
Field Guide, Inc. - Saint Paul, MN  
Friends of the Boundary Waters  
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate  
Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability  
Izaak Walton League of America, Minnesota Division  
League of Women Voters Minnesota  
Lutefisk Technologies, Inc. - Ely, MN  
Lutheran Advocacy Minnesota  
Lynnhurst Environmental Committee  
Mankato Area Zero Waste  
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
Minnesota Environmental Justice Table  
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light  
MN350  
Northeast Metro Climate Action  
Northwest Metro Climate Action  
Recycling Electronics for Climate Action  
Save Lake Superior Association  
Save Our Sky Blue Waters  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter  
St Luke Presbyterian Church - Minnetonka, MN  
The Swap Closet  
Toxyfree - Stillwater, MN  
Vadnais Heights Green Team  
WaterLegacy