



“To promote a zero-waste society that advocates for reducing waste, sustainably reusing resources and less landfill use.”

Senator Ann Rest

Senator Grant Hauschild

Senator Matt Klein

Senator Jeremy Miller

Senator Bill Weber

Senator Carla Nelson

Senator Scott Dibble

Senator Aric Putnam

Senator Steve Drazkowski

February 12, 2025

Re: S.F. 1082 (Dibble; Eichorn, Hawj, Weber, Rest), Support for SWMT allocation for SCORE grants

Dear Chair Rest and Members of the Tax Committee:

The Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRA) represents resource recovery facilities that process over 1 million tons of waste per year for over 30 counties. We fully support the additional allocation of Solid Waste Management Tax receipts to SCORE recycling grant funding and encourage the inclusion of this in the final 2025 Tax bill.

We strongly support a funding level that reflects the solid waste challenges counties face. The full allocation from the General Fund back to the environmental fund best reflects the scale of those challenges.

Counties rely on SCORE funding to keep waste out of landfills and waste-to-energy facilities and address the health and environmental impacts of waste. Despite significant investment of local funds, statewide recycling rates have been stuck at 40-45%. SCORE grants provide local governments with resources needed to recycle more, reduce waste, foster reuse, divert organics and prevent environmental pollution from landfills.

The appropriation in this language will be very helpful as counties address ever-increasing trash quantity and toxicity challenges, allowing counties to invest in programs to achieve state recycling mandates in pursuit of a zero-waste economy.

- **MRRA Supports Efforts to Permanently Increase SCORE Grants.** Both bills advance our 2025 legislative priorities agenda in support of efforts “to allocate all revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) to waste management activities and increase SCORE funding.”
- **MRRA fully supports the long-established waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle toward achieving ‘zero-waste’ goals and minimal landfill disposal.** Less than 25 percent of the state Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) revenue is allocated to county SCORE grants even though state law assigns counties lead responsibility. Further, those SCORE grant funding levels have remained relatively flat, and well below normal inflation. By comparison, 30 percent of SWMT revenue, or about \$30 million, is dedicated to the General Fund. Ironically, that General Fund portion has been increasing each year as, unfortunately, solid waste streams and landfill deposits have also continued to grow and outpace the recycling and landfill diversion work.

We appreciate the action taken in 2023 and 2024 to increase SCORE grant funding. However, with that increase, grants remain well below county investments needed to meet state recycling goals. Expanding organics collection, reduction and recycling work and expanding local markets for recycled material can cost tens of millions in infrastructure and operating expenses. Many counties report spending two to four times their SCORE allocation and still experience lost recycling opportunities due to cost constraints.

In the future, fully dedicating General Fund SWMT revenues to SCORE grants will support a more sustainable path forward for reducing waste streams and achieving state recycling goals. MRRA stands ready to work with policymakers, state agencies, communities, and the private sector to take action on public and environmental health issues in 2025 and beyond.

Sincerely,



Chris McConn, P.E.

MRRA Chair

<http://mnresourcerecovery.com/>