



Saint Louis County

Environmental Services Department

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David Fink
Director

February 11, 2025

Senator Ann Rest, Chair

Minnesota Senate Tax Committee

SF 1082 (Dibble); Resource management account dedication increase provision

Dear Chair Rest and Tax Committee Members:

On behalf of St. Louis County, I ask for your support of **SF 1082 (Dibble)**, to amend the Solid Waste Management tax revenue allocation.

- **St. Louis County supports efforts to permanently increase SCORE Grants**
St. Louis County provides services to over 6,000 square miles of the County. To accomplish this, St. Louis County has a vast network of primarily rural collection sites for solid waste, special wastes, and traditional recyclables. Without providing this network, St. Louis County expects much of these wastes being improperly disposed.
- **St. Louis County is committed to working within the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan with neighboring counties.**
St. Louis County has the only mixed recycling facility in the Northeast Region, and as part of the multi-county solid waste management plan, identifies it as the region's destination for traditional recyclables. Increased SCORE grant funding would be dedicated to increasing the capacity of the facility to better serve the Northeast Region.

The State of Minnesota assigned counties the lead responsibility in recycling and solid waste management. St. Louis County appreciates the action taken in 2023 to increase SCORE grants by 3 percent. After receiving SCORE Grant funding of approximately \$300,000 in 2024 the County's recycling program operated at a net loss of roughly \$1.5 million. The deficit is an annual occurrence for County SCORE programs. Utilizing all the tax revenue to support recycling and waste diversion programs as it was intended would follow closer to the original vision of the SCORE Grant program.

Sincerely,

David Fink, Director of Environmental Services