CONSERVATION MINNESOTA

March 26, 2026

RE: SF1690 (Kupec)

Chair Klein, and members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

Conservation Minnesota writes to you to express our support for SF1690 (Kupec) which, with the adoption of the proposed amendment, establishes a stewardship program for batteries in Minnesota. Programs like this are an important tool for cleaning up our solid waste system and creating more accountability for their end-of-life care.

Improving our battery waste system and procedures serves several environmental needs. It mitigates toxic runoff from batteries into our water and soil, and removes these same toxics from the waste stream, where they contaminate recyclable materials. It also makes retrieving valuable critical materials easier, helping to bring us closer to a circular system based on reuse. Further, it protects waste workers by helping to limit dangerous fires and emergencies caused by batteries in sorting facilities and on garbage trucks.

The new language in the amendment is the product of a thorough and detailed stakeholder engagement process. It reflects both a compromise and real progress towards solving some of the most pressing solid waste issues in our modern technology economy. The proposed program requires a stewardship plan for all covered battery manufacturers, ensuring that as new batteries are made and distributed, companies are responsible for their entire useful life, including their disposal.

In summary, Conservation Minnesota supports SF1690 (Kupec) as an important step towards updating our battery and electronic waste system. We urge the committee to support the bill as amended to help bring our waste management laws up to date with modern needs.

Sincerely,
Nels Paulsen
Policy Director
nels@conservationminnesota.org

James Lehner
Policy Associate
james@conservationminnesota.org