PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE & ENERGY
Hennepin | Ramsey | Washington

March 26, 2026

Senator Matt Klein
Chair, Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
2105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support – S.F. 1690, Battery Product Stewardship

Dear Chair Klein and Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board consisting of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties, formed to address waste management and energy issues. The Partnership seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.

Electronic waste and batteries must be kept out of the mixed municipal solid waste stream and disposal facilities. Waste facilities are seeing increases in fires due to growing numbers of lithium-ion batteries being placed in trash and recycling and are struggling to manage the associated liability issues. Additionally, keeping these materials out of the waste stream reduces waste toxicity and helps prevent risks to the environment and public health, all while recovering valuable products and critical materials for reuse and recycling.

Current laws are outdated and leave financial and operational burdens on counties and taxpayers. This is contrary to the original purpose of these statutes, which were written to hold manufacturers responsible. These statutes also do not adequately account for the significant change over the years in the nature and types of electronics and rechargeable batteries that consumers purchase.

The Partnership on Waste and Energy supports legislative action, as represented by the Delete Everything amendment to S.F. 1690, to update the various existing battery laws and put responsibility for managing loose batteries—including those that can be easily removed from battery-containing products—on the industries producing them. Changes made to existing laws need to reflect the current nature of battery-related products and provide flexibility for an evolving marketplace.

The Delete Everything amendment is designed around our residents who lack accessibility to collection options and quality information on keeping battery products out of trash and recycling bins and getting them to a site for recycling or safe management. This bill also includes important tools of enforcement and authority to ensure abandoned waste is properly managed and costs are covered.

Thank you, Chair Klein, for hearing this bill and the Delete Everything amendment. We encourage a thoughtful evaluation of proposed changes and advancement of a bill that makes recycling batteries more convenient and less costly for consumers and relieves burdens and risks

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on counties and taxpayers. We also look forward to future discussions to address the challenges of electronic waste and battery-containing electronic devices not currently addressed in the Delete Everything amendment.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy



An exploded and charred battery.



A solid waste fire caused by a battery.