



April 1, 2022

TO: Chair Hansen and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee  
FROM: Andrea Lovoll, Legislative Coordinator, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
RE: HF 3146 (Lee)- Environment; air quality permit analysis requirements modified, environmental justice area identified, and demographic analysis required.

Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your service to the people of Minnesota and thank you for the opportunity to testify on HF 3146 (Lee). Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) is a nonprofit organization with almost 50 years of experience using law and science to protect Minnesota's environment and the health of its people.

Air pollution is a leading contributor to heart disease, stroke, COPD, lung disease, and acute respiratory infections in children. The World Health Organization reports that 1 in 8 deaths worldwide are caused by pollution. And the health impacts of pollution are not equally distributed across the socioeconomic ladder. Polluting industries have congregated in low income neighborhoods and BIPOC neighborhoods. Minnesota is not the exception to this national trend – We have a number of “cancer clusters” - areas that have been identified as having a dangerous concentration of pollution. The City of Minneapolis has identified two of these areas for special attention which they call “green zones” – one on the northside and one on the southside.

The simple fact that our permitting process allows for these areas of high concentration to exist is strong evidence that changes need to be made. All Minnesotans have the right to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment, and it's time for Minnesota to enact policy that reflects those rights. We are still operating under the legacy of racist systems that had been written into law. Environmental racism still exists today because we have not made changes to address that racism in permitting for pollution. The MPCA recognizes that “[l]ow-income Minnesotans and people of color ... are exposed to more pollution than middle and upper income white Minnesotans.” In Minnesota, the color of your skin and your economic status are factors that determine your risk for chronic asthma and your exposure to toxins.

House File 3146 would begin to address this inequity by defining environmental justice areas in Minnesota. This is a step in the right direction for understanding environmental justice disparities in Minnesota. And requiring the MPCA to publicly collect and maintain a map of environmental justice boundaries will inform future strategies to reduce pollution in these areas and begin to heal the land.

House File 3146 is important for Minnesotans because it addresses cumulative impacts of pollution on sensitive populations. The health effects of pollution are not simple. Looking at the incremental increase in pollution from a single new or expanded facility

without studying the characteristics of the neighborhood does not tell the whole story. Environmental health studies show that place-based stressors like neighborhood poverty increase individual susceptibility to the toxic effects of environmental pollutants. So, in effect, one increased “unit” of pollution can be more toxic for some neighborhoods than others.

In order to understand the impacts of increased pollution, the decision-maker must examine the exposed population’s heightened sensitivity to exposure and the ability to withstand, respond to, or recover from, additional pollution. Adding a cumulative impacts analysis to permit review will aid decision-makers in seeing a fuller picture of the permit impacts. Furthermore, the law will ensure that the residents of environmental justice areas have the opportunity to participate in the decision making process.

We encourage the committee to move this bill forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Andrea Lovoll, Legislative Coordinator, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy



Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee  
Chair Representative Rick Hansen  
407 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 30, 2022

Dear Chair Hansen and Committee members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership's member organizations, I would like to thank you for considering HF 3146 and encourage you to move this legislation forward. This bill is an important step forward to begin addressing the complex and detrimental impacts of pollution on some of our state's most vulnerable communities.

Minnesotans pride ourselves on enjoying a high quality of life and relatively clean air throughout most of our state, but unfortunately, decades of decisions have led to some people and areas suffering from much greater pollution levels than others. Low-income and Black, Indigenous and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by pollution; notably, 91% of these communities have air pollution-related risks above health guidelines, compared with 32% of communities statewide. Minnesotans in these communities are more than twice as likely than average to live near a facility that exceeds public health guidelines. The result for these communities, and for low-income areas generally, is seen in higher rates of asthma attacks, cancer, and other severe illnesses and deaths.

This disparity is not an accident, but the result of many years of permitting decisions and redlining that has concentrated point sources of pollution near vulnerable communities, frequently ignoring local concerns. All Minnesotans should enjoy the right to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and walk on clean soil.

Therefore, we must ensure that at the very least, the state accurately defines where these communities - environmental justice areas - are located, collects thorough information on local environmental health conditions, and considers the cumulative impacts of pollution in permitting decisions. Collecting more precise and detailed information is the first step toward ensuring the permitting process serves the people of Minnesota - especially those who have been historically wronged - and begins to rectify decades of harm.

This bill will provide an opportunity to start truly engaging communities who suffer most from concentrated pollution by ensuring that the residents of environmental justice areas have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. The Minnesota Environmental Partnership and our member groups urge you to favorably consider HF 3146.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Morse".

Steve Morse  
Executive Director

100%

100% Campaign  
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100  
Saint Paul, MN 55114  
[www.100percentmn.org](http://www.100percentmn.org)

March 31, 2022

Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to share our support for Rep. Fue Lee's 3146.

**Every Minnesotan deserves to live in a healthy community**, with breathable air and drinkable water, safe homes and safe streets, and places to work, shop, and recreate. It's not too much to expect that everyone of us, Black, brown, or white, Indigenous or immigrant could have a place like this in Minnesota.

**This bill aims to extend this promise to more Minnesotans**, specifically those who have borne more of the negative impacts of ongoing industrial pollution.

House File 3146 would require facilities that are applying for, renewing, or amending permits to emit air or noise pollution in environmental justice areas to include **a completed cumulative impacts analysis** with their application with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA). The PCA Commissioner would then be required to review the analysis and determine if those emissions will impact the environment or health of the area. Likewise, the PCA Commissioner would be required to hold a public meeting on application and factor in testimony and written comments they received in making their decision on the permit.

**A process like this has been in place in certain areas in Minneapolis since 2008.** This bill would extend these protections to Minnesotans across the state who live in areas that are 40% or more nonwhite, where 35% or more of the households are at or 200 percent of the federal poverty level, where 40% or more of the Minnesotans over the age of five have limited English proficiency, or communities that live in within Indian Country, as defined in United State Code, title 18, section 1151.

All Minnesotans deserve a high quality of life. **This bill would play an important role in protecting communities that are too often expected to house polluting facilities** without their consent or input, and without adequate disclosures or protections.

Please support House File 3146.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Chris Conry

Campaign Director  
100% Campaign  
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100  
Saint Paul, MN 55114



April 1, 2022

TO: Chair Hansen and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee

FROM: Sasha Lewis-Norelle, Environmental Health and Justice Organizer, Clean Water Action Minnesota

RE: HF 3146 (Lee) - Environment; air quality permit analysis requirements modified, environmental justice area identified, and demographic analysis required.

Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding HF 3146 (Lee). Over the last 40 years, Clean Water Action Minnesota has been a consistent advocate for our environment and health. We continue to push for a Minnesota that has a flourishing natural world, and a safe and healthy lived environment.

It is clear to see that there are different impacts of air pollution based on a number of factors; where you live, your income level, how much political power you and your community wield, and many more. This has led to certain communities becoming vastly overburdened by air pollution, which leads to numerous negative health impacts. By examining projects on a case by case basis, the regulatory process fails to take into account the other sources of pollution and the cumulative impacts of many facilities over their entire lifetimes. This gap in the process must be addressed, otherwise communities of color, low income communities, and rural communities will continue to bear a disproportionate burden of pollution, further cementing environmental, economic, and health disparities.

We support the implementation of cumulative impacts consideration within permitting processes as an important step towards addressing these disparities, and ensuring that overburdened communities do not continue to accumulate new sources of pollution. By having the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency collect and publicly maintain data about environmental justice communities, we can begin addressing the root problems that have created these disproportionately harmed communities. The consideration of cumulative impacts on air quality in permitting is common sense, as no facility exists within a vacuum. We can and must create a better Minnesota, where no one is subject to bad air quality due to their race or socioeconomic status.

We must take concrete steps forward to fix the regulatory process, to begin addressing its current failures and ensure the health and wellbeing of Minnesotans and our environment.

Sasha Lewis-Norelle, Environmental Health and Justice Organizer, Clean Water Action Minnesota

March 31, 2022

Minnesota House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee Minnesota House of  
Representatives  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hansen and the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I would like to thank Chair Hansen and the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Frontline Communities Protection Act, or H.F. 3146.

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) is a science advocacy organization with more than 500,000 supporters nationwide, including over 7,000 in Minnesota. We have over 50 years of experience putting science into action to build a healthier planet, a more equitable society, and a safer world. **UCS is grateful for the leadership of Rep. Fue Lee on environmental justice and for introducing this bill to protect frontline communities from cumulative impacts of pollution, and we are in full support of H.F. 3146 as well as amendments on rulemaking for air toxics, air quality monitoring equipment, and a community monitoring pilot program.** We ask this Committee to advance this bill, which will help improve access to healthy air quality for all Minnesota communities.

**H.F. 3146 will ensure air quality permitting processes increase engagement with communities and ensure that these processes protect environmental justice communities from exacerbated inequities.** By defining environmental justice and environmental justice areas, increasing protections for environmental justice communities from additional sources of pollution, and thoroughly analyzing various socioeconomic and environmental vulnerabilities that increase the community's sensitivity to additional pollution exposure, H.F. 3146 would ensure enhanced public participation and review to address inequities and also provide tools for environmental justice communities to shape and benefit from environmental, energy, climate, and public health laws and policies. This bill would ensure both the process and the outcomes of permitting in Minnesota are more just and equitable.

**UCS supports the strong criteria to define environmental justice populations and ensuring that permitting processes includes input from communities and analyses of cumulative impacts and demographics.** These policies lay the groundwork to better protect environmental justice populations from cumulative pollution. This bill would create long overdue protections for the Black, Brown, Indigenous, Immigrant and low-income communities, which experience disproportionate impacts of pollution and climate change and are often excluded from adequate participation in environmental decision-making. This policy would help combat the as-yet intractable reality that communities of color, low-income residents, residents with limited English language proficiency, and other vulnerable

populations are disproportionately burdened by environmental contaminants and lack the environmental and energy benefits afforded to whiter and wealthier communities.

In order to achieve environmental justice, we must understand all the ways that communities are impacted by pollution, social and environmental stressors, and existing socioeconomic inequities and then prioritize protections for communities that have historically experienced systemic, disproportionate harms and are therefore most vulnerable to additional sources of pollution. Currently, environmental justice guidelines often inform but do not drive decision-making. This allows for the concentration of polluting industries and facilities in our most vulnerable communities. Providing avenues for increased engagement with environmental communities and more rigorous analysis of the cumulative impacts of a long legacy of inequitable pollution will help center equity and environmental justice in decision-making. The reforms in H.F. 3146 are a key tool in addressing the disparities in pollution and health burdens across Minnesota.

**The science is clear—the impacts of pollution have significant racial and economic disparities.** American history is replete with examples of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, low-income, and other historically marginalized communities bearing the brunt of environmental hazards from their proximity to toxic waste sites, landfills, congested highways, polluting industrial facilities, and fossil fuel extraction sites compared with white or more affluent communities.<sup>1</sup> The science shows that exposure to these environmental hazards carries enormous and life-long health burdens, such as an increased risk of heart disease, asthma attacks, and premature death.<sup>2</sup>

Data shows that communities that are predominantly Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC) or low-income bear the brunt of environmental injustice.<sup>3</sup> These communities face disproportionate exposure to environmental pollutants as well as unequal health and safety risks from climate change. At the same time, these communities disproportionately lack access to the employment opportunities and economic benefits from polluting industries.<sup>4</sup> BIPOC and low-income communities are on the frontlines of our public health, safety, and environmental crises, living among acute and often cumulative pollution and health hazards. This is the result of years of exclusionary practices in science, policymaking, housing, health care, and the economy. The need for interventions to protect environmental justice communities becomes clear given the data on air pollution, health and economic outcomes, climate impacts, and the locations of polluting facilities and hazardous waste sites.

Unfortunately, even the Land of 10,000 Lakes is no exception. In fact, recent data from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) found that poor air quality played a role in 10 percent of all deaths in the Twin Cities metro area, as well as nearly 500 hospitalizations and emergency room visits.<sup>5</sup> Air pollution was also attributable to 8 percent of all fatalities in Duluth and St. Cloud and 10 percent of all deaths in Rochester. Of course, these health impacts and exposures to pollution are not

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<sup>1</sup> <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/72837516.pdf>;  
<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304297>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/health-and-environmental-effects-particulate-matter-pm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/28/climate/air-pollution-minorities.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2018-10-01/minority-communities-near-industrial-sites-get-pollution-not-jobs>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/life-and-breath-report>



distributed equally across all Minnesotans. In all the Minnesota cities analyzed for the study, communities with higher percentages of low-income residents, uninsured residents, residents with a disability, and BIPOC residents faced the highest estimated rates of death and disease related to air pollution. The same report found that “communities facing discrimination, barriers to access and structural racism generally had the highest estimated rates of air pollution-related death and disease...For example, ZIP codes with the largest percentage of residents of color had more than five times the rate of asthma emergency room visits related to air pollution compared to areas with more white residents.”<sup>6</sup>

**The Union of Concerned Scientists recently analyzed exposure to air pollution from vehicles in Minnesota, revealing stark inequities.**<sup>7</sup> Looking at the state as a whole, Black Minnesotans are exposed to 65 percent higher concentrations of fine particulate matter air pollution (known as PM<sub>2.5</sub>) from on-road transportation than the average PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure for all Minnesotans. Latinx residents experience concentrations 28 percent higher than the average resident. At the same time, white residents have an average exposure that is 9 percent lower than the average for the state.

Furthermore, PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure varies greatly within Minnesota. Ramsey County is exposed to the worst pollution levels, with an exposure that is 116 percent higher than the state average, followed by Hennepin County with an exposure that is 54 percent higher than the state average. Together, these two counties are home to almost one third of the state’s population.

The analysis also shows that less affluent households have a higher exposure to air pollution than more affluent households, although this disparity is not as pronounced among income brackets as it is among racial and ethnic groups. One of the most striking examples is in Hennepin County, where our analysis shows that the lower the income, the dirtier the air breathed by those households. Those earning less than an annual \$20,000 breathe air that is 25 percent more polluted than the county average, while those earning more than \$200,000 breathe air that is 15 percent cleaner than the county average.

According to the MPCA’s biennial report, *The Air We Breathe: The State of Minnesota’s Air Quality, 2021*, local pollution impacts of the most polluted areas have not decreased as much as average air pollution. The report states, “in Minnesota, discriminatory housing policies, the placement of freeways in Black neighborhoods and zoning and permitting decisions led to people of color being concentrated together with pollution sources. The result is air pollution that threatens higher health risks in areas where Black, Indigenous, people of color, and low-income residents live. The social, economic, and health inequities these groups face make them more vulnerable to the health effects of air pollution, further intensifying the impacts. Air pollution and health are closely linked, and even low levels of air pollution can contribute to serious illnesses and early death.”<sup>8</sup>

Data also shows that race is the most consistent factor in determining the location of commercial hazardous waste sites, nationally.<sup>9</sup> Neighborhoods with higher populations of

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2022/air030822.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://blog.ucsusa.org/cecilia-moura/who-breathes-dirtiest-air-from-vehicles-minnesota>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/I-94minneapolis-stpaul/background.html>

<sup>9</sup> Paul Mohai and Robin Saha, 2015. *Which came first, people or pollution? Assessing the disparate siting and post-siting demographic change hypotheses of environmental injustice*

people of color also lack access to reliable municipal infrastructure and to healthy housing, food, green spaces, and other resources that mitigate environmental and energy burdens and increase community resilience.<sup>10</sup> In addition, these communities often face political disenfranchisement, making it all the more difficult for them to have a voice in the processes and decisions that impact their communities.<sup>11</sup> Historically marginalized communities are also at increased risk from the high heat and severe weather events associated with the climate crisis.<sup>12</sup>

**Since health and safety are enjoyed unequally across racial and economic lines, policies focused on the health and safety of communities should also focus on addressing inequities.** Science has too often ignored or exacerbated racial inequities and must now be used to right those wrongs. Requiring community engagement, analysis of how the impacted community's demographics, socioeconomic characteristics, and the cumulative impacts of pollution impact their vulnerability to additional pollution exposure before issuing permits employs science and data to directly address and reduce environmental injustice. Data-driven policies that identify environmental justice communities and include the full context of disproportionate, compounded burdens they face in decision-making are key to addressing environmental racism. H.F. 3146 is a major step forward in the pursuit of environmental justice for Minnesotans.

Since sources of toxics and air pollution are disproportionately sited in BIPOC and under-resourced communities, it is key to take cumulative, disproportionate impacts into account in the permitting process to avoid further exacerbating the compounded impacts of a legacy of environmental racism and residential segregation.

The Frontline Communities Protection Act would strengthen the environmental permitting process in communities that have been historically overburdened by pollution and under-resourced and ensure that the process does not exacerbate disproportionate harm to already vulnerable populations. This bill would help to center environmental justice and racial equity in the decision making for air quality permits. This bill's requirements of meaningful public input and the use of cumulative impact data in permitting decisions is a critical step towards ensuring that all residents of Minnesota, regardless of their zip code and color of their skin, have the right to health, clean air, and safe communities. UCS asks this Committee to move H.F. 3146 forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Meghan Hassett  
Midwest Clean Energy Advocate  
Union of Concerned Scientists

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<sup>10</sup> Rachel D. Godsil, *Viewing the Cathedral from Behind the Color Line: Property Rules, Liability Rules and Environmental Racism*, 53 Emory L.J. 1807, 1841–49 (2004), <https://ssrn.com/abstract=594066>; see generally *The Call for Environmental Justice Legislation: An Annotated Bibliography* (PRRAC 2018), <https://www.prrac.org/pdf/EJLegislationResearchGuide.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ucusa.org/resources/voting-rights-and-environmental-justice>

<sup>12</sup> H. Orru et al., *The Interplay of Climate Change and Air Pollution on Health*, 4 Current Envntl. Health Report 504, 504 (2017) See also *U.S. Global Change Research Program, Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment*, Volume II (2018) [https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA4\\_2018\\_FullReport.pdf](https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA4_2018_FullReport.pdf)



March 31, 2022

Chair Hansen and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony and share our strong support for Rep. Lee's Frontline Communities Protection Act, HF 3146.

Sierra Club's Minnesota North Star Chapter represents 80,000 members and supporters working to help our state's communities flourish through environmental protection. We believe everyone in our state deserves to be safe and healthy. However, our regulatory processes are falling far short of promoting this goal.

The Sierra Club supports this bill because it offers tangible and community-supported ways to address the extreme and pervasive racial disparities in our state.

First, to reduce systemic racial disparities, we need to follow the priorities of those most impacted by systemic racism. This bill, like many others being considered around the country and in Washington D.C., has been drafted by leaders from the most impacted communities and reflects their priorities and experience.

Second, this bill provides achievable ways for Minnesotans who have been disproportionately burdened by pollution – including communities of color, low income communities, and rural communities – to have greater impact on pollution permitting decisions that impact them and their families. It provides steps to give impacted communities a genuine say, redistributes where power is held, and puts a greater burden of proof on industry when pollution permits are being considered in overburdened neighborhoods.

Third, this bill offers us a tangible and achievable path for reducing racial health disparities. So many health disparities are because we have historically and structurally allowed more pollution in Black, Indigenous, Latinx or other neighborhoods of color. This bill makes it more difficult to pollute in communities that are already harmed by high levels of pollution.

Finally, this bill is consistent with a positive business climate that protects people and their environment while creating good jobs. It simply fosters a more equitable distribution of both the benefits and the harms of doing business.

Thank you, Chair Hansen and Committee members. We look forward to continuing to work with you and supporting our partners to achieve a cleaner, healthier and more just future.

Margaret Levin, State Director, Sierra Club North Star Chapter



MINNESOTA  
RESOURCE  
RECOVERY  
ASSOCIATION

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

April 1, 2022

RE: HF 3146 (LEE)

Dear Chair Hansen and Environment and Natural Resources Committee Members:

On behalf of the Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (“MRRA”), I write in my capacity as a board member to thank you in advance for receiving this letter. MRRA is in favor of environmental justice and is committed to working together to improve HF 3146, but **MRRA strongly opposes HF 3146**, as currently written:

- HF 3146 presents significant permitting challenges on a majority of potential submissions.
- HF 3146 adds significant time and cost to the permit application and issuance process by the potential of adding 1-2 years to the permitting process. Additionally, HF 3146 increases costs by an estimated \$100,000-\$200,000 per permit action.
- HF 3146 adds permit conditions (e.g., restrictions on operations and requirements for air pollution controls) that cap emissions at currently permitted levels for existing facilities, and at 0 emissions for new permittees.
- HF 3146 advocates that every proposed project permit application needs to have some type of emissions off-set to avoid a cumulative analysis, but with the over-generalized language of the triggers, it’s hard to know what that would entail.

MRRA has 9 facilities across the state. Our facilities operate primarily in rural MN counties (Blue Earth, Otter Tail, Polk, Pope, Douglas, Goodhue) as well as metro country areas such as Olmsted, Washington, and Hennepin. I am an environmental engineer and executive director for the Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority. We are owned by 5 counties (Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, Todd and Wadena). We operate a 54,000 ton per year resource recovery facility in Perham, Minnesota.

Many of our facilities are built in the heart of some of the most successful destination locations in Minnesota. Our state-of-the-art air emission controls ensure a safe and clean place for people to visit, vacation, work and live. **Often, people that are unfamiliar with facilities like ours, mistake steam for pollutants. This is frequently the case during winter months.** Perham, Alexandria, Fosston, Red Wing, Rochester, and Mankato are envied by neighboring communities for the jobs and financial benefits created by our facilities. The local business reduces transport

costs and harmful emissions and greenhouse gases caused by trucking waste to remote landfills, not in our backyards. We think globally and act locally.

We believe in moving Minnesota towards zero landfilling and leaving a legacy of a better Minnesota for future generations. For this reason, we respectfully request involvement in developing environmental justice bills to ensure that they are compatible with our shared environmental goals. In the short-term, our facilities are more expensive to operate than the nearest landfills; however, long term they are less costly due to lower environmental risks. Currently, Minnesota's taxpayers have nearly \$1 billion in landfill clean-up costs. In accordance with MPCA guidelines our member counties choose resource recovery over landfilling as it ranks higher on the waste management hierarchy and creates less risk to the public's health and pollution risk to the environment.

MRRA members fully embrace the scientifically proven waste management hierarchy. We are currently advancing multiple regional programs of higher priority than resource recovery, which include waste reduction, waste re-use, recycling, and composting; these initiatives work towards zero landfilling. If resource recovery is weakened in integrated programs, Minnesota will move backwards, not forwards in waste management. These waste management strategies are recommended by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and required by Minnesota state law. Global leaders in environmental solid waste management which include countries such as Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands have the same perspective.

Minnesotans continue to generate more waste. The waste is more toxic and less recyclable. We want to partner to ensure environmental justice is considered during the permitting processes. Waste-to-Energy in Minnesota reduces the overall environmental impacts of managing trash. We are leaders of Minnesota's efforts to protect our environment. We thank you for your work to help Minnesota protect our climate by protecting Minnesota's investments in Waste-to-Energy. Thank you and I and MRRA look forward to working with you.

Chris McConn (cell: 218.770.2810)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CMcConn', written in a cursive style.

MRRA / (Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority)