



April 12, 2021

Dear Representative Rena Moran:

The Ways and Means Committee will be hearing HF1076 on April 13. This letter is in support of Lines 168.12-171.6, formerly Representative Wazlawik's amended version of HF 1165 and HF 79.

The goal of the language in HF 1165:

**Primary Goal:** Originally to reduce plastic contamination at MN Compost facilities through proper labeling of plastic products in retail stores.

**Secondary Goal:** Through discussions of this topic, it became apparent that this was also a consumer protection bill – Truth in Advertising by prevented “Greenwashing”.

This bill would:

- Eliminate misleading compostability claims by manufacturers and distributors,
- Reduce consumer confusion regarding whether the item is compostable,
- Reduce plastic contamination at source-separated organics compost sites allowing them to produce a high-quality compost,
- Product manufactures are not required to seek ASTM D6400 and D6800 certification to assure compostability, it is voluntary.

Inadequate existing regulatory framework:

- Though there are ASTM standard specifications for compostability, there is no requirement that a product must meet a standard specification for compostability in order for it to be labeled as such; there are only labeling guidelines.
- As a result, there are many products that are deceptively labeled. Example: products that are a combination of compostable plastics and non-compostable plastics. These products “knit” together the non-compostable plastic components of the product with a compostable plastic resin. When the product breakdowns only the compostable plastic resin degrades, leaving behind micro-plastics in the environment.
- Home compostable standard specifications do not “officially” exist though European certifiers have attempted to develop such standards. A Marine degradability standard specification had been developed, however ASTM, the International agency overseeing standards, has “withdrawn” the specification due to issues around how effective it is in diverse marine environments.

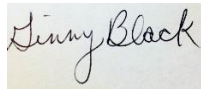
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In addition, the MNCC also support the language from HF 79 that has also been incorporated into HF 1076. This bill will removed PFAS from food service ware reducing the publics exposure to this toxic chemical and prevent it from being delivered to compost facilities.

We realize that this will not solve all of the contamination issues at compost facilities and more education for consumers is needed and that is part of the point of this law, as it would prevent products from being label as compostable if they do not meet the specific ASTM standard specifications (the gold standard for compostability) sited in this legislation. Finally, the adoption would assist consumers in identifying they are actually purchasing products that are truly compostable.

The MNCC would appreciate your support for Representative Wazlawik's amended version of HF 1165 and its incorporation into the House Environment and Natural Resource's omnibus bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ginny Black". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Ginny Black, MNCC Chair.