



MINNESOTA FOREST INDUSTRIES

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Testimony Opposing H.R. 3577: Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act
Minnesota House State and Local Government Finance and Policy
Tuesday March 12, 2024

Chair Klevorn and Committee Members,

My name is Rick Horton, and I am the Executive Vice President of Minnesota Forest Industries. MFI is a trade organization representing the primary wood-consuming mills in the state. Together we transform trees into products we use every day.

MFI is opposed to House File 3577, the Extended Producer Responsibility bill, as it pertains to paper products. The American Pulp and Paper Association (attached) shows that nationwide 67.9% of paper, and a staggering 93.6% of cardboard was recycled in 2022! And it shows that paper usage is declining overall.

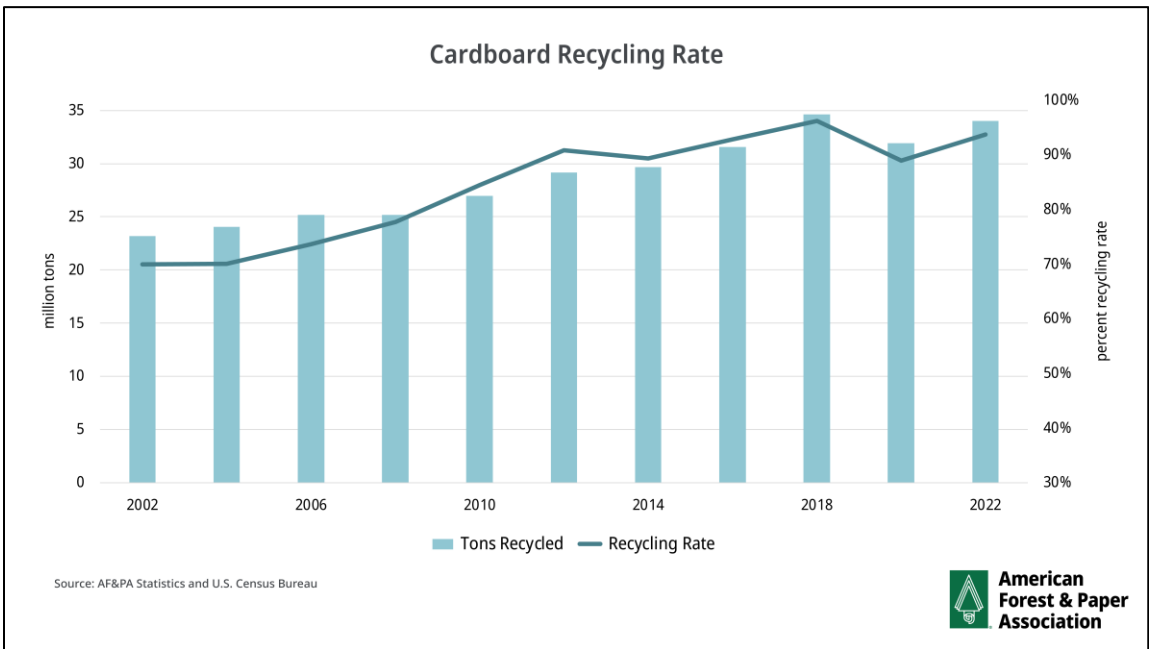
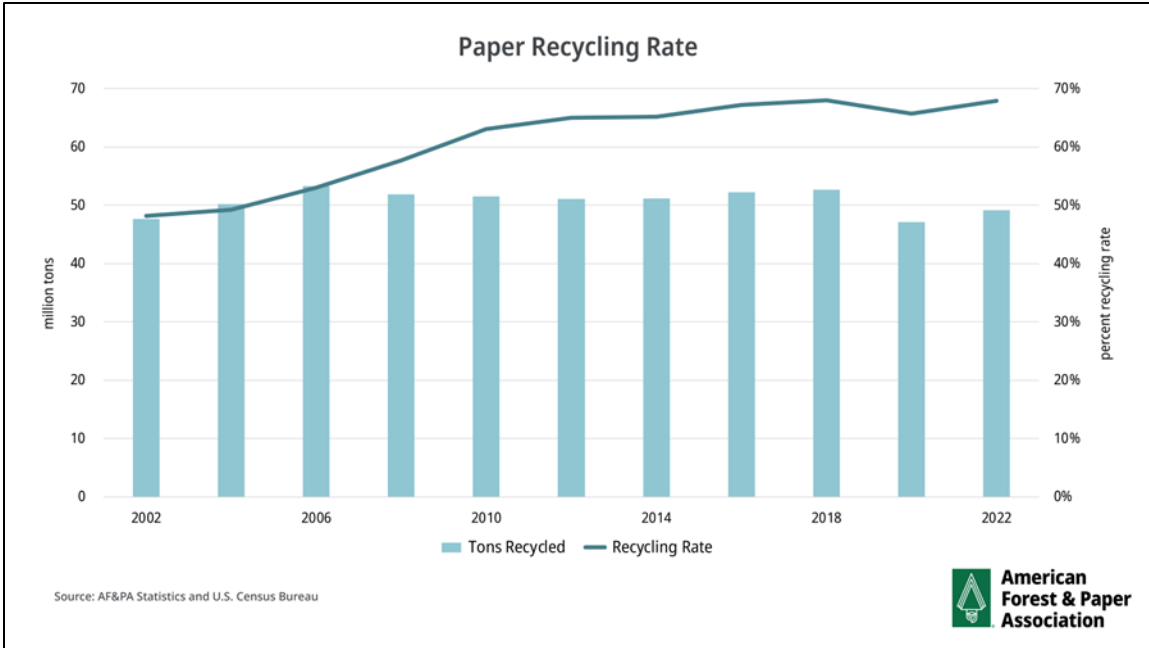
The 50 States of Recycling Report for Minnesota (attached) shows that 78% of cardboard, boxboard and paper is recycled in this state (gray bar at 4 o'clock). This is the direct result of the commitment our industry has made to recycling.

Paper is made from renewable and sustainably-sourced wood. Managing forests improves forest health, creates wildlife habitat, reduces wildfire risk and creates good-paying jobs in impoverished rural communities. We should be encouraging conversion to paper-based packaging, rather than forcing punitive regulations upon the industry that has been doing the right thing all along.

Given this, we ask that you consider removing all references to paper products from this bill.

Thank you.

Rick Horton, Executive Vice President, Minnesota Forest Industries



MINNESOTA

37% RECYCLING RATE
WITHOUT FIBER AND FLEXIBLE PLASTICS (FFP)

RANKING

RECYCLING RANK 2021 #11
RECYCLING RANK 2018 #7

POPULATION
5,711,471

CENSUS SUB REGION
WEST NORTH CENTRAL

RECYCLING REFUND STATE
NO

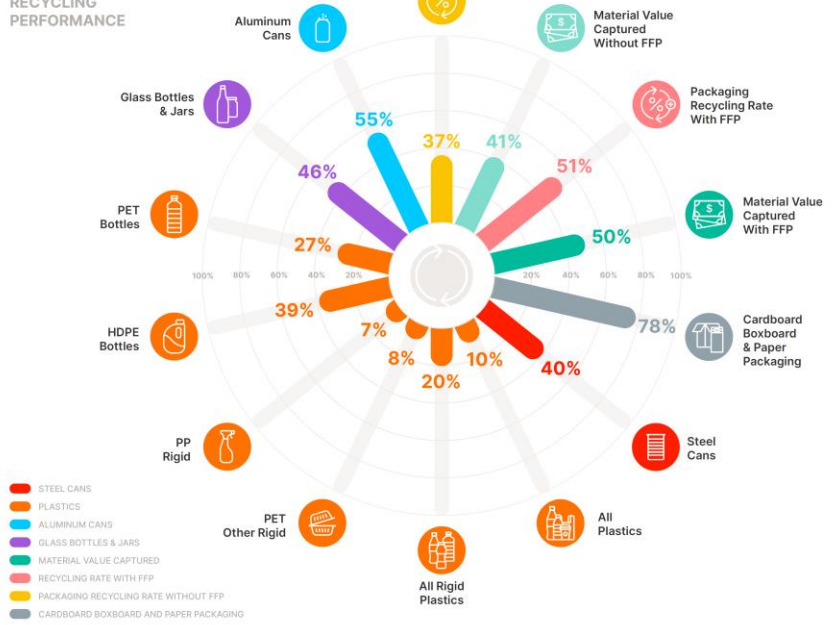
DATA QUALITY



OVERVIEW

The 2014 Minnesota Legislature increased the recycling goal for the seven-county metro area from 50% to 75% of the MSW they generate by 2030. A 2016 law (§115A.151) requires commercial businesses to recycle at least three material types. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) supports local efforts and provides information on recycling, composting and solid waste management for the state, including managing reporting requirements. MPCA helps businesses develop uses for recycled materials by offering technical, financial, and marketing assistance.

CURRENT DETAILED RECYCLING PERFORMANCE



THE 50 STATES OF RECYCLING