



Association of  
Minnesota Counties



January 17, 2023

House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee  
Rep. Patty Acomb, Chair  
593 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 7

Dear Chair Acomb and Members of the Committee,

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA), and Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA) represent the interests of county and waste district professional staff. We advocate for policies that improve and promote responsible waste management and reduce the environmental impacts of solid waste.

**Our associations are writing today because we support the efforts of House File 7 (HF7) to advance clean energy objectives and associated benefits to human health and the protection of our environment and natural resources. However, as written, the bill will impact solid waste management in a manner that will increase long term greenhouse gas emissions in Minnesota, contrary to the stated goals of this legislation.** We ask that the author and members of this committee work with us to strengthen the climate outcomes of this legislation by addressing the solid waste management issues in this bill.

Some counties have responded to state policy direction and invested significant local funds into resource recovery facilities to recover energy from waste that cannot be reduced or recycled. This approach ranks higher than landfilling on the waste management hierarchy established in state law as it creates less overall risk to public health and the environment. Waste managed in these facilities prevents methane emissions from landfills, reducing the climate impacts of waste management.

Resource recovery facilities operate in rural MN counties (Blue Earth, Otter Tail, Polk, Pope, Douglas, and Goodhue), as well as metro areas (Olmsted, Washington, and Hennepin). More than 30 Minnesota counties send waste to these facilities as part of their integrated waste management plans that prioritize waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. The loss of these facilities will certainly have negative environmental outcomes that are not recognized in HF7 as currently written.

AMC, MICA, and SWAA are working with the state to promote strategies toward a zero-waste future. At that time, resources recovery may no longer be needed. However, as long as solid waste is generated in the state, these facilities will play a critical role in its management and environmental protection.

**We stand ready to work with the committee to explore options to amend HF7 to ensure that Minnesota has a comprehensive strategy for meeting our climate and clean energy goals.**

Sincerely,



Brian Martinson  
Policy Analyst, Association of Minnesota Counties



Laine Sletta, Brown County  
President, Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association



Matt Massman, Executive Director  
Minnesota Inter-County Association