



Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association | 125 Charles Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103-2108 | www.mn-swaa.org

May 6, 2022

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen
Senator David Tomassoni
Senator Justin Eichorn
Senator Bill Weber
Senator Kent Eken

Representative Rick Hansen
Representative Ami Wazlawik
Representative Kelly Morrison
Representative Todd Lippert
Representative Josh Heintzeman

Dear Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Conference Committee (S.F. 4062/H.F. 4492):

The Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA) is an organization of county and solid waste district professionals and affiliated waste specialists and is an affiliate of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), which represents all 87 Minnesota counties. SWAA advocates for policies and funding that improve and promote responsible waste management and reduce environmental impacts of solid waste.

SWAA appreciates the provisions in this legislation that support efforts to reduce and manage waste, and to deal with the health and environmental impacts of solid waste. We would like to offer the following feedback on items that impact our work and responsibilities to the public and the state:

- **SCORE Grants** (Senate Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(b)): **SWAA supports the investment made in recycling and waste reduction efforts through the increase (\$700,000) to SCORE Grants.** SCORE Grants are the primary state support mechanism for waste reduction efforts statewide. This funding would help further state recycling goals and support additional waste reduction efforts at the local level and move waste materials to the higher end of the waste hierarchy. **We also encourage committee support for redirecting Solid Waste Management Tax revenue currently going to the General Fund to SCORE Grants instead.**
- **Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT)** (House Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3): **SWAA supports the inclusion of \$29.055 million for repayment of funds transferred from the MLCAT.** MLCAT is necessary to address emergency and long-term care at landfills and waste disposal sites in the seven-county metro area and the fund balance is already inadequate to address the expected expenses at eligible sites within three years.
- **PFAS Prevention Grants** (House Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2, (d)): SWAA supports this investment of \$2 million for grants to public and private entities dealing with PFAS pollution. One of the MPCA's priorities for this funding is monitoring PFAS receiver sites, like solid waste facilities. The MPCA recently released a voluntary monitoring program, but this testing can be costly. The MPCA estimates costs for the monitoring at just the publicly owned solid waste sites totals \$2.12 million. **We would encourage the committee to consider increasing this appropriation and dedicating it to funding the MPCA PFAS Monitoring Program so that all sites can afford to participate.**
- **PFAS Monitoring Expenses** (Senate Art 2, Sec 77): SWAA understands that the MPCA PFAS Monitoring Plan is a voluntary opportunity to support state collection of data. The cost to do this sampling and run the tests can be costly and we think it is prudent for the State to encourage participation by supporting the costs. We are concerned about facilities being forced to participate through other means.

- **Solid Waste Capital Assistance Program** (House Art. 1, Sec.2 , Subd. 2 (x)): SWAA supports this modest appropriation (\$17,000) necessary revise the rules to increase the cap on Solid Waste Capital Assistance Program grants, which are funded in the bonding bill. The cost of building and maintaining this critical waste infrastructure is growing.
- **Waste Prevention and Recycling and Zero Waste Grants** (House Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2, (e) (w) & Art. 2, Sec. 51): SWAA supports the further investments in waste infrastructure and educational opportunities through the \$10 million investment in waste prevention and recycling grants and loans. We look forward to learning more about how the money will be prioritized and distributed by the MPCA.
- **Labeling of Compostable Products** (House Art. 4, Sec. 7): **SWAA supports proper labeling of compostable and biodegradable products.** Contamination is a costly problem for collection programs and composting operations. Accurate and understandable product labeling will eliminate confusion for residents and businesses trying to act responsibly and support industry success in Minnesota.
- **PFAS Disclosure** (House, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2 (cc) & Art. 4, Sec. 6): SWAA participates in the PFAS Advisory Council focused on source identification and reduction. Requiring PFAS producers and users to report this information will reduce the costs of analysis and focus our efforts on management and reduction of these substances.
- **Carpet Stewardship Program Report**, (House Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2 (z) & Art. 2, Sec. 95) SWAA supports product stewardship among manufacturers, retailers, and consumers that creates producer-led material and toxicity reductions, reuse, and recycling programs. SWAA has engaged in discussions on carpet programs numerous times and would do so again if this proposal is advanced.
- **Cumulative Impacts provisions** (House Art. 1, Sec. 2 Subd. 2 (n) & Art. 2, Secs. 60, 62) **SWAA has concerns with some of the provisions included in these sections that impact current and future responsibilities and environmentally preferable methods of processing solid waste.** We recognize the potential impacts of waste management activities and seek solutions that minimize negative impacts and do not burden one group more than another.
- **PFAS Health Risk Limit established in statute** (House Art. 4, Sec. 11): **SWAA opposes setting Health Risk Limits in statute.** Health risk limits should be set through the state administrative rulemaking process. These processes are meant to involve science-based decision making and provide for the tools to reset limits as if better information become available.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with our perspective on issues the SF4062 Conference Committee will be negotiating. Should you have any questions about the information provided above, or other waste related provisions please contact Brian Martinson, AMC Policy Analyst, at bmartinson@mncounties.org or 651-246-4156.

Sincerely,



Laine Sletta, Brown County Planning & Zoning Administrator
President, Solid Waste Administrators Association