March 13, 2023

Rep. Zack Stephenson

Chair, House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee

407 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: H.F. 1315 Oppose unless amended

Dear Chair Stephenson:

Epsilyte is a leading producer of advanced materials in North America. Our products insulate buildings, pharmaceuticals, and perishable food. We also protect human life by manufacturing specialty products used for safety helmets and child car seats. While 70% of Epsilyte’s materials are sold into durable applications, some are used in life sustaining applications such as foodservice and cold chain packaging. In 2022 we advised these customers that moving forward all our materials used in disposable applications will contain our biodegradable technology.

Epsilyte has focused on landfill biodegradation technology because today’s recycling and composting infrastructures are still very immature. Most consumer products go to landfill after use. This means that innovations in landfill biodegradation are important as part of a multi-part sustainability focus in Minnesota and beyond. We have seen claims that plastics take over 400 years to biodegrade in a landfill. Those claims upset the public, and upset us as well. So, we went to work and discovered a proprietary additive and process that dramatically reduces that timeline.

Our EVRgreen product has been proven under ASTM D5511 testing standards to biodegrade 92% in just 4 years in anaerobic landfill conditions - and does so leaving no microplastics or toxins behind. We have over 10 years of testing data and take great care to ensure our product claims include the appropriate qualifications to avoid confusion at the consumer level.

Our EVRgreen product is favored by customers and is better for the environment. With our properly qualified biodegradation claim language, which complies with FTC Green Guides requirements, customers receive accurate, understandable information they can use to choose an alternative product that is better for the environment. We want this new proposed statute to retain that right of choice for Minnesota customers.

We respectfully request that this bill be amended to recognize ASTM test methods for qualified claims such as Epsilyte’s. When given the appropriate qualifications, biodegradable labels are not confusing to the consumer.

Sincerely,

**Jon Timbers**

Jon Timbers

Chief Sustainability Officer