

April 17, 2023

Representative Aisha Gomez
Chair, Taxes Committee
453 Stat Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for H.F. 1938, House Tax Omnibus Bill

Dear Chair Gomez,

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board consisting of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties, formed to address waste management and energy issues. The Partnership seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.

The Partnership thanks you for the partial inclusion of Representative Hornstein's HF 1587 in the Omnibus Tax Bill. We strongly support the allocation of 5% of the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) that is currently going to the General Fund to the Environmental Fund, and require that, that 5% be directed to counties through SCORE Grants in this bill.

The Partnership asks for continued support of the partial phase in to allow counties to protect the environment by reducing landfilling and processing and manage waste at the top of the waste management hierarchy.

SCORE grants provide funding for recycling programs, food waste management and prevention, composting and compostable management, waste reduction and management of household hazardous wastes and other problem materials. SCORE is an important part of solid waste budgets, but it is insufficient for the infrastructure investments and program changes needed to achieve zero-waste.

We support all revenue generated by SWMT to go to waste management activities.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy

cc: House Tax Committee members