



CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA

April 16, 2026

Chair Fischer, Chair Heintzeman, and members of the House Environment Committee,

Conservation Minnesota wishes to share our support for HF4819 (Kozlowski), which authorizes a study of critical materials in the waste stream. As we consider ways to increase the circularity of our economy and put valuable materials back to use instead of throwing them away, gathering this information is an important step.

In 2024, the legislature established a Critical Materials Recovery Advisory Task Force. This group is charged with developing the policies, procedures, and infrastructure to extract these critical materials for recycling and reuse. This research and the eventual recommendations will help make meaningful reductions in our waste stream, create jobs and increase economic opportunity across the state, and provide us with a greater source of material we could use for things like renewable energy infrastructure.

This bill adds a more formal study component to the work of the task force, examining how many tons of critical materials enter the state every year, and how much we currently reuse or recycle. These baseline figures are important to understanding exactly where we stand and will guide the decisions about what actions need to be taken next to increase recovery.

In our increasingly technological economy, many of the items and products we use daily require these critical materials. If we can find a way to put these back to use rather than throwing them away, we ought to do so. This study is an important step in understanding the current conditions of our waste system and will help us find the solutions we need to solve this problem going forward.

We respectfully ask that this committee support HF4819 (Kozlowski) to help us gather the data needed to modernize our waste recovery system and begin putting these critical materials back to use.

Sincerely,

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April 16, 2026

The Honorable Peter Fischer and Josh Heintzeman
Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chair Fischer, Co-Chair Heintzeman, and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on House File 4819.

Affordable and reliable sourcing of critical materials is a growing need across the economy, and responsible planning will be essential to Minnesota maintaining its role as an innovator and economic leader. These valuable materials are increasing in demand and are subject to trade and supply chain disruptions. By studying the state's waste and recycling streams, we can gather the data necessary for developing programs that minimize the loss of critical materials to landfills. Enhanced recovery of these materials will reduce the demand for raw material sourcing, while also creating additional value in second-life markets. Furthermore, recapturing otherwise recyclable materials has the benefit of preserving the longevity of existing landfills. This is both good for the environment and good for the economy.

We recommend that members support House File 4819 and help our state identify simple, practical ways to reduce waste and recapture the resources we depend on.

Sincerely,

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