

March 9, 2021

Representative Stephenson
Chair of the Commerce Finance and Policy Committee

Re: HF 1165 (Wazlawik) – Biodegradable or compostable item labeling requirements modified

Dear Chair Stephenson and Members,

The City of Minneapolis thanks you for the opportunity to share our support of HF 1165. The City maintains the largest residential organics recycling program in the state with over 58,000 households signed up to participate. While the City's residents do an excellent job of composting the right items and our overall contamination rate is less than 1%, poorly labeled food-service items are the most common contaminant found in the organics recycling.

The confusion of products is not only at the household level. Restaurants are also often sold products from distributors that are not actually compostable. The City's Solid Waste & Recycling Division of Public Works and the Health Department often field calls and emails around food-service packaging because of poor labeling.

HF1165 is a consumer protection bill. Its passage will:

- Only allow items that are truly compostable to be sold/distributed in the State
- Reduce confusing labeling practices by manufacturers and distributors to restaurants and other food establishments buying take-out containers
- Reduce resident confusion if an item is compostable
- Reduce contamination received at source-separated organics compost sites allowing them to produce quality compost
- Reduce microplastics ending up in our environment.

Adoption of the bill will only impact manufacturers looking to label their products as compostable or biodegradable and distributors selling improper food service items. It does not require businesses to use these items.

For the continued success of our organics recycling program and Green to Go ordinance, we encourage you to support this bill. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Steven Huser

Government Relations Representative
City of Minneapolis