

March 7, 2023

Minnesota Senate
Taxes Committee



Re: HF1785 – Solid Waste Management Funding Tax

Dear Chair Gomez and Members of the Committee,

Eureka Recycling is submitting a letter of support for HF1785: Solid Waste Management Tax amendments. We support the legislation, but would like to see some additional changes to further target funds at source reduction, reuse infrastructure, and effective zero waste strategies.

Eureka Recycling is a non-profit, social enterprise, recycler based in Minneapolis. Our mission is to demonstrate that waste is completely preventable. While we hold a clear and bold vision for a world without waste, we use our on-the-ground experience to advocate for tangible, real-world solutions to better manage our resources, reduce waste, support local economies, and build healthy, equitable communities. To this end we need the State to not only expand waste management funding but to target that funding to effective strategies that reduce waste and build a more circular economy.

Currently, only a portion of SCORE funding is allocated to local government waste reduction efforts, while the remainder goes to the state's general fund. We support the fact that this bill allocates 100% of revenue collected from waste management services to the Environmental Fund.

We believe, however, that the bill could do more to effectively drive funding to zero waste initiatives. The following additional changes need to be made:

- **Prioritize Reuse:** The list of permissible expenditures under the County Waste Reduction and Recycling Funding ([Section 115A.557](#)) should be expanded to include investments in the development of reuse infrastructure, including market development. Amid historic supply chain disruptions, the intensifying climate crisis, and rampant plastic pollution, there has never been a more important time to invest in a circular economy for Minnesotans that prioritizes reduction and reuse.
- **Update Definitions:** At a minimum, the definitions in Section [115A.03](#) for recycling should be strengthened and definitions for composting and reuse should be added. These definitions should be amended in ways that would further target SCORE funding to activities that result in source reduction, minimize environmental and human health impacts, and create a more sustainable economy.

We would welcome a discussion about what those definitions should be and appreciate your consideration of our comments. Please feel free to contact us with questions or for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Hoffman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lynn Hoffman,
Co-President of Eureka Recycling
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About Eureka Recycling: We are a non-profit, social enterprise, recycler based in Minneapolis. Our mission is to demonstrate that waste is completely preventable. We employ 130 people with living-wage jobs who collect, sort, and market 110,000 tons of residential recycling every year. Our union drivers pick up recycling from more than 130,000 households in St Paul and surrounding communities. Our team sorts these recyclables into 15 different commodities that feed into the supply chain and support growth of our regional economy. About 80% of our feedstock stays in Minnesota and 90% in the greater Midwest, where it is made into new products.