

March 7, 2023

Representative Tina Liebling
Chair of the Committee on Health Finance and Policy

Re: HF 645 — Lee: Disposition of money recovered from litigation or settlement of environmental permit violations provided

Dear Chair Liebling and Members,

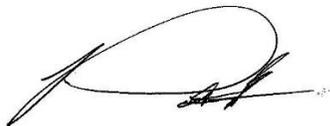
The City of Minneapolis supports HF 645, which provides that, when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recovers more than \$250,000 from litigation or a settlement agreement regarding a permit violation, 40% of the money must be transferred to the community health board in the area where residents may have been exposed to the pollution that was the subject of the litigation or settlement.

In North Minneapolis, the MPCA began monitoring the air quality near a metal shredding operation (Northern Metal Recycling) that was found to have violated federal and state air quality permit. Because of this violation, MPCA successfully pushed to revoke their air quality permit, and as a result, the City of Minneapolis received \$600,000 in settlement funds. The City of Minneapolis through its public health department was able to address and mitigate asthma and lead poisoning in the neighborhoods around the facility through remediation work.

We believe that all communities throughout Minnesota that have been impacted by the violations of facilities grossly violating their permits should be required to compensate communities for the potential damages caused by their violations. That portion of funding set aside can be used to try and repair some of the harm caused to people in the community living near these facilities.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important piece of legislation for our great state.

Sincerely,



Patrick Hanlon
Deputy Commissioner: Sustainability, Healthy Homes and Environment
City of Minneapolis Health Department