

April 11, 2023

**To: House Ways and Means Committee**  
**From: The National Wastes and Recycling Association (NWRA)**  
**Through: Douglas Carnival, McGrann, Shea, Carnival Law Firm**

**RE: HF 2310 (Hansen) Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Budget Bill**

## **Support:**

**1) MPCA Recycling Market Development:** NWRA supports additional funds for recycling market development; Line 17.16 \$700K for both years. State assistance in the developing new end markets for recyclable material, increases demand for the recyclable material our industry collects and processes.

**2) Chemicals/Metals in Products:** NWRA supports new programs that identify and seek to remove heavy metals and harmful chemicals from products. As “receivers” of spent waste products containing hazardous chemicals and heavy metals, we appreciate the effort to remove toxic materials at their source, during the production of new products. NWRA supports:

- \*Removal of harmful chemicals in children’s products (\$106K/ \$109K)
- \*Trichloroethylene identification of uses and reduction (\$448k/\$457K)
- \* PFAS in products (\$318K/\$474k)
- \* PFAS in ski wax (\$825K/\$1.453M)

**3) Additional SCORE** pass through funds to counties for waste reduction and recycling. Local governments know best where funds are needed to increase Minnesota’s recycling rates (Line 17.11 \$22.45M, \$22.45M with \$18.45M ongoing funding.)

**4) Solar Panel Recycling Study** (\$420; one time funding) NWRA supports a study with qualification. The language needs to require an examination of hazardous components that may be generated during dismantling solar panels and external (peripheral) components of a solar panel installation, in addition to investigating the ultimate fate of materials to determine whether they are truly recycled.

**5) Restoration of MLCAT fund:** (\$29M; one time funding) NWRA supports the restoration of funding for the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) which was established for the cleanup of landfills that operated prior to U.S. EPA Subtitle D requirements for setting aside financial assurance for future cleanup. Current operating landfills have set aside financial assurance for this purpose.

## **Oppose:**

**1)Non-specific Grant Funds to MPCA: Line 19.22 \$12.94M 2024-2025 Total: \$26M**

This is significant funding that is not tied to any program established in statute or rule, no citation is given. The legislative language states that the funds can be used for “a waste prevention and reduction grant program”. This is one-time, significant funding that given the lack of transparency raises questions about how this funding will be used, whether this is for a single project that might compete with existing

solid waste facilities, or whether this is an acquisition or subsidization of an existing facility. More detail is needed and NWRA has concerns about whether this would fund a facility that competes with existing solid waste infrastructure. There are no “guard rails” in statute or rule for how this money could be spent.

**1) Zero Waste Report : Line 20.4 \$420K 2024**

This is significant funding for a solid waste report. NWRA was involved in Hennepin Counties’ recent Zero Waste Report, which included over 500 participants and many recommendations that were not screened for how practical their implementation might be in the day to day operations of collecting and managing trash and recycling. Further, these are significant state dollars and we question whether a state report would differ that greatly from the comprehensive report done by Hennepin County completed in Spring 2023. How will this process be different and is there really that much more to be learned?

**2) Zero Waste Grants: Line 20.8 (\$1.592M 2024; \$805K 2025) Total \$2.4 M**

Two year funding totaling \$2.4M for the development of zero waste projects for which the private sector is ineligible. We question why the funding would be targeted to solid waste projects located in EJ areas, when those same EJ areas are deemed sensitive to solid waste facilities that are going through the permitting process. The types of facilities eligible for funding by this new program can pose air quality and odor concerns for neighbors. Why would this legislation propose building these types of facilities in overburdened areas?

**4) Transfer of Funds: Line 23.26 (\$23M 2024, \$24M 2024 and beyond) from Environmental Fund to Remediation Fund Total: \$48M, \$24M ongoing funding.**

This is a significant amount of funding that is ongoing funding for an unspecified “remediation” program or project. Is this for the cleanup of Pig’s Eye Landfill, Freeway landfill, or is it for PFAS cleanup and/or management? What is this funding going to be used for?

**Conclusion:** NWRA thanks you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions about our positions on HF 2310, you may contact Doug Carnival at 612-325-3587.