

Representative Hansen and Committee Members;

Thank you for working on the challenges faced by our dry cleaning businesses in Minnesota.

Rep. Hansen's bill represents an agreement reached on May 8 after a conference call with the MPCA Commissioner. While it doesn't include all that was requested this does provide benefit to these businesses.

In new proposed statutory language on the reimbursement priority, the MPCA will be second on the list but it is understood that the building owners, lessors will continue to be eligible, just that they will be in line behind the MPCA.

Many of the cleaners have wanted to change out their perc machines to more environmentally beneficial ones; but simply do not have the cash flow. The grants will help some of the business make that change.

While we had requested a statutory cap on fees and this is not included in the bill, the Commissioner will send a letter to the Minnesota Cleaners Association notifying them there will be no fee increases for 2021 if the bill passes. The issue of fees will remain on the table for future discussions

During COVID-19 two dry cleaners have closed so far.

In 2021 will again be grappling with sustainability of the fund with a declining number of cleaners in Minnesota.

Regards,

Keith Aune, President
Minnesota Cleaners Association