



March 6, 2023

Re: HF 1785 – Solid Waste Tax directed to S.C.O.R.E.

Chair Gomez and members of the Senate Tax Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 1785. We thank the author, Rep. Hornstein, for his work on this issue. The League supports this legislation and encourages the committee to adopt this proposal as part of its tax package this session.

Minnesota counties and cities take their responsibilities for solid waste management very seriously and devote considerable local resources to handle these services. Unfortunately, solid waste issues are growing increasingly complex and expensive and local governments need help to run these programs. The state collects a tax specifically from solid waste generation, but only 70% of those funds currently go to address solid waste needs. The balance goes to the state general fund.

The need for those funds for solid waste management makes this legislation the correct step to take to get badly needed additional resources shifted to local solid waste programs through the S.C.O.R.E. program. Those funds go to counties, who pass portions through to cities in many cases. The increased state assistance is badly needed and would be very helpful as our state works to address challenges in solid waste management and recycling.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Craig A. Johnson'.

Craig A. Johnson
Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities