



100% Campaign

705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100

Saint Paul, MN 55114

www.100percentmn.org

March 18, 2021

Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

We're writing to express our support for the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program included in House File 1076, Governor's Walz's proposed budget for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Minnesotans are already experiencing the impacts of our changing climate. Families and communities across our state are experiencing larger and more frequent extreme weather events. Meanwhile, we are living within a built environment that was designed and created when we knew less about what climate impacts to expect in 2030, 2040, and beyond. Fortunately, we know more now. Massive rain events, flooding, extreme heat, windstorms, wildfires, concentrated snowfalls, and ice-dam building freeze/thaw cycles are all expected to be exacerbated by a warmer atmosphere and less stable, less predictable weather patterns.

Minnesota can prepare and adapt. Governor Walz is proposing additional general fund support for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Resource Management and Assistance Division in the amounts of \$1.358 million in FY 2022, \$1.606 million in FY 2023, and \$1.482 million each year thereafter.

This is a critical down payment on our future. These funds would be used to support a grant program for local governments who need assistance preparing bonding proposals. As you well know, preparing these requests is a lot of work. The risk assessment, planning, and pre-design required to assemble a proposal is considerable and can be out of reach for smaller governments and those with less experience advocating for state capital investments.

This is a way to protect communities who are most at risk. Climate risks are different depending on who you are and where you live. Minnesotans who live near rivers face different risks than those living in dense urban neighborhoods. Those living near forests face different risks than those living near large industrial facilities.

Our local governments are well positioned to address those risks. The proposals these grants would make possible are both necessary and noncontroversial. They will likely result in new stormwater and wastewater improvements, structural improvements, and community & business assistance.

We encourage you to go further. Rep. Samantha Vang has recently re-introduced House File 2200, a bill that would appropriate \$5 million in FY 2022 to support grant to local governments who want to create City Climate Action Plans. These plans are an important tool that local governments can use to make sure we make this transition together, with community input and support.

Likewise, the Governor's three proposals on Environmental Justice are also a step in the right direction. The three proposals would improve the ability of the MPCA to protect the communities already facing the worst pollution and with the greatest underlying risks, our areas of concern for environmental justice. By clarifying the MPCA's authority, hiring additional compliance staff, and acquiring new monitoring instruments, the State can be a better partner with communities, making sure every Minnesotan gets to live in a place that's both healthy and safe. We'd encourage you to go further by enacting House File 168, Rep. Fue Lee's bill requiring a cumulative impacts analysis before issuing air quality permits.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
100% Campaign
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cc: Assistant Commissioner Greta Gauthier, MPCA
Chair Fue Lee
Rep. Samantha Vang

Support for the Landfill Responsibility Act



As the second largest food bank in the country, Second Harvest Heartland specializes in moving food from where there is more than enough to where there is need. Our work to rescue food from Minnesota's retailers and other businesses embodies this principle, as we collected 40 million pounds of food in 2020 that would have otherwise gone to waste and instead, distributed this high-quality produce, protein, dairy, and baked goods across our network of nearly 1,000 partner programs and sites so that it could reach our neighbors experiencing hunger. Food Rescue is vital to our mission of ending hunger in the heartland, and policies like the Landfill Responsibility Act will support necessary investments in our operations, the work of our food shelf partners, and the needs of other stakeholders who can ensure that more food goes to those who need it.



Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity ReStore supports all Minnesota efforts to extend the useful life of our household furnishings and building materials through increased repair and reuse.

ReStore collects building materials and home improvement supply donations – anything from lumber and tools to doors and appliances, as long as they are clean and functional. ReStore is open to the public to shop for quality building supplies and home furnishings at a fraction of the cost of new products. The proceeds from ReStore supports the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity's work of building, rehabbing and repairing homes for hard-working local families. ReStore's website is <http://restore.tchabitat.org/>.



Eureka Recycling supports the Landfill Responsibility Act. As a mission-based recycler serving Minnesotans and engaging in national and international Zero Waste work for over 20 years, we know that reuse and reduction efforts are the most impactful and effective strategies for reducing the impacts of waste and consumption, yet they are typically the most underfunded. The LRA establishes a much needed funding source and structure for collecting and then fairly distributing these resources to the communities that need it most.



SUMMIT
ACADEMY OIC

Summit Academy OIC supports the Landfill Reduction Act and encourages the Legislature to adopt this bill. This Act will reduce emissions and protect our State's precious land, waters, and air. Just as important, the Act's focus on waste diversion and reduction will provide opportunities for new jobs and new small businesses statewide. This Act will help fuel Summit's and our partners efforts to ensure chronically unemployed and underemployed people move in these new jobs and become owners of the new businesses. Reuse and waste reduction are opportunities to protect our earth and provide meaningful pathways to economic prosperity. Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation.



St. Louis Park

MINNESOTA

Experience **LIFE** in the Park

The City of St. Louis Park supports the Landfill Responsibility Act (LRA). The fundamental goals of the LRA line up with St. Louis Park's strategic priorities and Climate Action Plan goals to reduce waste and its affiliated climate impacts. Having more reuse services and businesses throughout the region will benefit our residents and provide them more opportunities to rent, repair, purchase used, and donate items that might otherwise end up in the garbage. Whether or not these projects are located in St. Louis Park, this decrease in garbage and community building that often results in the reuse sector benefits all Minnesotans, including our residents.

St. Louis Park also supports the dedicated funding for projects benefiting environmental justice communities of concern. Racial inequities have led to many communities being intentionally sidestepped when it comes to investment. While the LRA is but one piece in addressing systemic racism, it is nonetheless an important one. St. Louis Park would like to see provisions put in place on this requirement that proposals for such projects involve the community of impact in the development of the project. If communities are not included in the planning to ensure the project is actually desired by the community, there runs a high risk that projects will not only not positively serve the intended community, but may do harm. The potential of these projects is great, and St. Louis Park looks to see the collaborative work is done upfront to minimize harm and maximize positive outcomes.



Reuse
Repair
Rediscover
Minnesota's reuse community

March 5, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am contacting you to request your support for the Landfill Responsibility Act.

Waste prevention and reuse are acknowledged as the best actions for reducing Minnesota's climate impacts. Traditionally, recycling has received more priority and support, despite clear research highlighting its lower benefit to the environment comparatively. State and local government goals, resources, and notable portions of available funding options remain skewed towards recycling; however, the Landfill Responsibility Act (LRA) is an important step.

ReUSE Minnesota is a nonprofit focused on bringing visibility to the reuse, rental, and repair sectors. Our Minnesota members include both for- and non-profit businesses across the state. We hope you see the opportunity the LRA creates for landfills to broaden their positive impact through waste prevention and reuse for all Minnesotans.

The LRA builds partnerships. This bill encourages partnerships between landfills and waste prevention/reuse businesses. Both groups provide valuable services to communities, but have not historically recognized the need for collaboration.

The LRA creates jobs. ReUSE Minnesota recently published a report on how reuse creates jobs and supports the local economy - in 2017, reuse generated \$5.81 billion in statewide revenue and 55,500 jobs. This bill establishes a consistent funding source for new projects to expand and stabilize this positive impact on the local economy.

The LRA is good for our environment. Materials and products require significant resources to manufacture, which is why it is essential that Minnesotans embrace opportunities to reuse, rent, and repair. This bill, by prioritizing these activities, will extend the life of the resources in items and reduce waste and climate impacts.

The LRA is good for equity. This bill broadens opportunities for skills-building, training, and improved access to services. Reuse businesses provide value to individuals in a variety of ways - affordable access to rent expensive, high-quality items, extended use and enjoyment of property and belongings through resale, repair, and refurbishment, acquisition of professional skills and specialized technical training.

I am grateful for your leadership at the legislature and respectfully ask you to take a firm stance on strengthening local jobs, protecting our environment, and supporting Minnesotan communities with the Landfill Responsibility Act.

Thank you for your consideration and your public service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Kedward", written in a cursive style.

Jenny Kedward, President
ReUSE Minnesota



March 17, 2021

The Honorable Rick Hansen
407 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for the Landfill Responsibility Act (HF1076/SF959)

Dear Representative Hansen,

I'm writing on behalf of the Board, staff, and members of Rethos who reside in Minnesota to ask you to approve the Landfill Responsibility Act to fund waste prevention and reuse programs across the state.

These days, when a property owner wants to remove a building or portion of a building, the go-to choice is demolition. As the house or building comes down, its parts are thrown in a dumpster, and they are transported to a landfill. About **85%** of those materials could be reused or recycled (Hennepin Co).

Deconstruction is one alternative to demolition. Deconstruction means carefully dismantling buildings to salvage materials for reuse and recycling (EPA). Reusing building materials has numerous benefits. It diverts material from landfills and reduces our reliance on manufacturing new parts. It means we lessen our extraction and use of virgin resources, like forests. It can create new jobs and spur economic activity.

At Rethos, we love to see buildings repurposed, restored, and reimaged. We know how sturdy and how adaptable old building materials are. We have long advocated for the funding of deconstruction and reuse programs to prevent further expansion of landfills. While there are numerous ways to slow this expansion, deconstruction is an effective method to reduce input from one of the largest contributing sectors. Waste reduction does not happen without community buy-in, political will, and trained experts. Rethos is committed to driving this possibility forward.

I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of the Landfill Responsibility Act (HF1076/SF959), part of the Governor's larger environment and natural resources budget bill. Enacting the LRA will fund waste prevention programs, like deconstruction, which will promote reuse and shrink the overall carbon footprint of the state.

Sincerely,

Riley Gage, Policy Associate

Sources Cited:

Hennepin County: <https://www.hennepin.us/salvage>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

<https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-management-construction-and-demolition-materials>



March 19, 2021

Dear Chair Hansen and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee:

I am writing to express our support for the proposed budget for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for the FY 2022-2023 biennium. Budgets are expressions of values and priorities, and we appreciate Governor Walz, Lt. Governor Flanagan, and the MPCA's strong focus on addressing important environmental problems facing Minnesota's citizens and communities. There are many aspects of the MPCA's budget we support, but I would like to highlight in particular three proposals:

Climate Resiliency Planning Grants

Communities across Minnesota are increasingly unprepared for historic rain and precipitation events that are four times more likely today than 20 years ago. Due to aging and often inadequate stormwater infrastructure and the loss of vital wetlands, extreme precipitation events are more frequently causing local streets to flood, sewer systems to backup into homes and businesses, and wastewater treatment plants to release sewage into lakes and rivers.

Local communities do not have the resources to do the planning necessary to address these problems and make sure their built and natural infrastructure meets current and future needs. The MPCA's budget addresses this problem by providing for grants directly to local and tribal governments for the climate resiliency planning they need.

Addressing Inequities in Pollution Exposure in Environmental Justice Areas

Regulated industries and sources of pollution in both urban and rural locations were historically permitted without meaningful regard for surrounding communities. Many of these communities have diverse or under-resourced populations, and residents of these communities have experienced disproportionate health impacts from air pollution. This increased exposure corresponds to negative health disparities across Minnesota. The MPCA has a strategic goal to improve air quality and reduce the disproportionate effect of air pollution on environmental justice communities and populations.

The agency's 2022-2023 budget proposes modest policy adjustments to increase attention and resolution of noncompliance in environmental justice areas. This work will help achieve the goal of reducing air pollution impacts in these overburdened communities and enhance public health, lowering the long-term societal cost of exposure to air pollution.

Landfill Responsibility Act



CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA

The amount of solid waste sent to landfills in Minnesota is still growing and the demand for new and larger landfills is an ongoing problem. Landfills are expensive long-term problems that require decades of monitoring and maintenance to ensure they do not contaminate our ground water and drinking water. In addition, the climate benefits of reducing waste and reliance on landfills are well established.

Landfills currently have no formal incentives to reduce the amount of waste they receive. The MPCA has proposed the Landfill Responsibility Act to incentivize waste reduction and decrease reliance on landfilling. We support the goals and innovative approach of this initiative as well as ongoing support for local government reuse, recycling and composting programs.

There are many other proposals in the FY 2022-2023 MPCA budget from Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan that are broadly supported by Conservation Minnesota and the entire environmental community; and we are grateful to be able to point out three proposals we think will make a lasting positive impact on the lives of Minnesotans. We thank this committee for the good work you do on behalf of all Minnesotans and we look forward to supporting these proposals as they work through the 2021 legislative session.

Sincerely

Nels Paulsen
Policy Director