

Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee

March 9, 2021

Re: HF 248 and HF 1037

Dear Committee members,

I am a 27-year White Bear Lake community member who has lived and raised a family within the Estimated Area of Concern for TCE exposure from Water Gremlin. Both HF 248 and HF 1037 would help to address some of the issues that have occurred with Water Gremlin to help ensure they do not happen with other businesses using toxic chemicals in the future.

As a community member, I was not aware there was a business (Water Gremlin) near my home that was using so many toxic chemicals that they required a special permit. I also did not know until seventeen years after the first violation that they were not meeting the permit requirements and had continued to not meet permit requirements over and over again. It is essential that community members are given the opportunity to ask questions and express opinions when a business near their home allegedly violates the permit, which is why I support HF 248.

Water Gremlin was required to self-report the emissions of toxic chemicals, yet they did not report them accurately. According to the Clean Air Act National Stack Testing Guidance, "stack testing is an important tool used to determine a facility's compliance with emission limits..." I support HF 1037 because it would allow for more physical emissions testing for facilities (stack testing) to better ensure limits on emissions are being followed. Self-reporting should not be the sole way in which emissions are tracked, especially for known "bad actor" businesses like Water Gremlin.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andrea West

White Bear Lake