



March 3, 2022

The Honorable Rick Hansen  
Chair, House Environment & Natural Resources  
Finance and Policy Committee

The Honorable Josh Heintzeman  
Ranking Minority Member, House Environment &  
Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee

The Honorable Bill Ingebrigtsen  
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources  
Finance Committee

The Honorable Patricia Torres Ray  
Ranking Minority Member, Environment and  
Natural Resources Finance Committee  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Carrie Ruud  
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources  
Policy and Legacy Finance Committee

The Honorable Foug Hawj  
Ranking Minority Member, Senate Environment and  
Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance  
Committee

**RE: Support for HF3627/SF3359 for the Creation of a Pig's Eye Landfill Task Force**

Dear Committee Chairs and Ranking Minority Members:

The Clean Water Council is a state advisory council created in 2006 to advise on the implementation of the Clean Water Legacy Act. The Governor appoints its 17 voting members from a variety of constituencies, including cities, counties, townships, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, environmental organizations, farm organizations, hunting and fishing organizations, business organizations, and tribal governments.

At its meeting on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, the Clean Water Council unanimously expressed support for the creation of the Pig's Eye Landfill Task Force as outlined in HF3627 and SF3359. The Council also supports the use of funding sources other than the Clean Water Fund for the Task Force.

The legacy pollution on this site along the Mississippi River poses a major environmental hazard. Since multiple jurisdictions have some role in the cleanup efforts, a task force that can coordinate efforts will be critical.

Please let me know if you have any questions at (651) 757-2384 or [paul.gardner@state.mn.us](mailto:paul.gardner@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Paul Gardner'.

Paul Gardner  
Administrator, Clean Water Council

February 28, 2022

Representative Rick Hansen  
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee  
407 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Support for HF 3627 (Xiong, J.)**

Dear Chair Hansen,

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board consisting of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties, formed to address waste management and energy issues. The Partnership seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.

The Partnership supports HF 3627 (Xiong, J.) creating a task force to coordinate remediation and restoration of the Pig's Eye Landfill Superfund site and addressing PFAS contamination of affected water bodies and groundwater. The challenges with this site are significant and complex. Focusing and coordinating solutions among various agencies and interested parties has the promise of creating better outcomes to the benefit of public health, the environment and future users of the area's land and waters, residents and wildlife alike.

The Partnership has expressed support in past committee hearings for restoration of funds borrowed from the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) account and the Closed Landfill Investment Fund (CLIF) to balance past general fund budgets, as well as ensuring adequate future funding for landfill clean-up needs. The Pig's Eye situation is a prime example of the urgency to own up to our obligations as a state, to remedy past practices and prevent future harm from product and waste management choices. The state has the opportunity to prioritize and fund efforts to reduce waste, address toxicity of products, promote reuse and recycle more materials, all to prevent future situations like we find at Pigs' Eye.

The Partnership appreciates the priority legislators place on mitigating sources and causes of pollution and harm to human health. We look forward to solutions that protect public health and clean up past pollution impacting our environment.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Fran Miron, Washington County  
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy

cc: Peter Strohmeier, Committee Administrator  
Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County  
Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County  
House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee members

**Tom Dimond**  
2119 Skyway Drive  
Saint Paul, MN 55119

HF 3627 - Pollution cleanup and natural resource restoration in our National Park

Saint Paul's Mayor and City Council unanimously support Resolution 22-69, the pollution cleanup and natural resource restoration of Pig's Eye Landfill. The area is BIPOC Majority and Economically Disadvantaged.

This area has been disadvantaged when it comes to access and use of safe, healthy, and welcoming natural resource opportunities. Our great natural resources within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area have instead been used as a place to dump waste/pollutant. The barriers that restrict public access to our natural resources need to be removed. Regional Park Plans adopted by the City Council and approved by the Metropolitan Council over 40 years ago promised that park trails, boat access, pavilion, bathrooms, and park signage would be completed within 9 years. The public is still waiting.

Extensive funding has gone into park facilities elsewhere while the BIPOC Majority neighborhoods have not seen the honoring of promises made during 50 years of Regional Park planning, and creation of our National Park and State Critical Area. Equity and equality call for immediate action to provide safe and healthy natural resources accessible for all.

Pig's Eye Lake is a Glacial Lake. It was here before the Mississippi or Minnesota Rivers in Saint Paul. The lakes, wetlands, and flood plain forests of Pig's Eye Regional Park are unique natural resources of great value. The natural resource value of wetlands has not always been understood and appreciated. Filling and destruction of wetlands contribute to a great loss of essential habitat, ponding and filtration of runoff water.

French traders called the lake's vast wetlands Grand Marais. The area was teeming with wildlife in a beautiful setting.

The area remained a largely untouched natural area until recent times. For more than a century, plans called for the whole area to be protected as a natural area for all to enjoy. While plans called for its protection, City resources were focused on creating Mississippi River Boulevard, Reserve Boulevard, Summit Avenue, Como Park, etc... Starting in the Depression the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission and City used the park as a place to dump waste/pollutant into the wetland. This continued through the 1970's.

The upside was the absolute disgust of many watching what was happening to this unique and valuable natural resource. This disgust combined with the growing environmental movement in the 1960's and 70's that called for protection and enhancement of Pig's Eye Lake Regional Park and the surrounding bluffs.

The Regional Park designation, State Critical Area designation, State Scientific and Natural Area designation and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area designation as part of the National Park System established in law the need and significance of protecting and enhancing natural resources and recreational opportunities.

We have seen great progress in many areas to protect and enhance natural resources and enhance recreational opportunities. Sadly, the BIPOC Majority neighborhoods around Pig's Eye Lake have been denied the pollution cleanup, natural resource restoration, and enhancement of recreational opportunities that others have benefitted from. More than 1 in 4 Black and Hispanic Americans live within 3 miles of a superfund site.

The resolution's unanimous support by Saint Paul's elected officials is an important first step to rectify this disparity.

MWCC testing of water discharged into the Mississippi River looked good. What was not mentioned was the MWCC practice of piping polluted waste out the back of the plant and into the park wetlands that feed the Mississippi River.

There is a Heron Rookery protected as a State Scientific and Natural Area/Sanctuary. Water and habitat quality impact the Rookery. Testing of Rookery eggs has found some of the highest pollutant levels found in the world.

Climate change has contributed to more violent storms and deluges of water. We have seen the tragic consequences. Removing pollution and restoring wetlands helps protect BIPOC neighborhoods, our parkland, wildlife habitat, and those downriver who use the river as their source of drinking water and for recreation.

PFAS is a forever chemical that threatens ground and surface water. Now the EPA is warning about 1-4 Dioxane. Highly miscible in water, the US EPA deems this synthetic chemical is a likely carcinogen. It can damage cells in the liver, kidney, and respiratory system. In 2021, the superfund site was tested for 1-4 Dioxane. The tests found 1-4 Dioxane. Cleanup of the site eliminates known and unknown threats.

"Addressing legacy pollution is not only the right thing to do, it also directly benefits nearby communities by improving public health, creating good-paying jobs, and shielding these sites from the spreading more contamination in the event of climate change fueled storms." Senator Tom Carper - Chair of the U S Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Please support HF 3627.



**March 2, 2022**

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

FROM: Mayor Melvin Carter

**SUBJECT: Support for HF 3627 (Xiong, J.)**

Dear Chair Hansen,

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul, I am writing to express my support for Representative Xiong's legislation (HF 3627) establishing a task force to remediate and restore the Pig's Eye Landfill Superfund site and address perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination of Battle Creek, Pig's Eye Lake, and nearby groundwater. The task force's robust membership will ensure that we have all relevant partners at the table to collectively begin to assess this critical need in our communities.

Pig's Eye Lake and the surrounding areas are of great natural and cultural value to the City of Saint Paul. It remains a significant site for the Indigenous Peoples of Saint Paul who have long been dedicated to restoring the area to create safe and vibrant greenspaces for community. This area is also home to large swaths of urban and migratory wildlife, including multiple active bald eagle nests, herons, and egrets.

Climate change has significantly increased the risk of flooding and subsequent dispersal of PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals", into the Mississippi River. In turn, this impacts the drinking water and wildlife of communities downstream.

Earlier this week, Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) released their February forecast and have determined our state budget surplus now exceeds \$9 billion dollars. We have a unique opportunity to utilize state and federal dollars to begin to fund the cleanup and restoration of Pig's Eye Lake. The City of Saint Paul remains committed to this work and I thank you for your consideration of HF 3627.

Sincerely,

Mayor Melvin Carter  
City of Saint Paul