



**LIUNA!** MINNESOTA &  
NORTH DAKOTA  
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March 12, 2026

Members of the House Environment & Natural Resources Committee,

The IBEW State Council and LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota urge you to support and pass HF4017, which attempts to address a growing safety issue at recycling and waste disposal facilities due to illegally disposed infectious materials from hospitals and clinics from throughout the state. We also appreciate Rep. Johnson carrying this important worker safety bill.

Both the IBEW and LIUNA represent workers on the front lines of this issue. These workers are responsible for transporting, sorting, segregating and disposing of any infectious waste they find in everyday waste and recycling streams. They regularly find used needles and other sharp objects, as well as blood and body parts, mixed in traditional waste and recycling streams where they don't belong.

The problem has been ongoing for years. Laws already on the books are often ignored or forgotten, with enforcement from state and local governments lacking. Workers exposed to these hazards are left with few answers and their workplaces are often thrown into chaos.

We believe HF4017 will provide transparency and accountability to the disposal of infectious waste and help stem the flow of infectious waste unlawfully dumped into recycling or garbage streams. It also provides for stronger reporting and increased penalties. Again, above all else for us this is a worker safety bill. Our members provide a vital service and deserve workplaces that minimize risks and prioritize their safety. Bottom line, HF4017 will make their workplaces safer and we urge your support.

Respectfully Submitted,

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