



**District 11**

**Cathy Drummond**  
District Director

**Jeff Hartford**  
Assistant to the  
Director

March 28, 2024

House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Hansen and members of the Committee,

The United Steelworkers (USW) District 11 thanks you for the committee's hard work this session to protect Minnesota's environment now and for future generations. We are writing today to urge you to pass H.F. 4550 (SF4523) which would establish the Critical Materials Recovery Advisory Task Force. The Critical Materials Recovery Advisory Task Force will have the responsibility of determining emerging recycling technologies, evaluating recovery costs, and identifying needed infrastructure, end-of-life-management options for products, and ways to prevent the improper disposal of critical materials. This task force will create new jobs and opportunities for workers in the state and help grow and sustain Minnesota's economy for years to come.

Our union has long advocated for decreasing our reliance on foreign countries for materials crucial to our supply chains that we could recover, recycle, or process here in Minnesota and in the United States. In Minnesota alone, there is over 266 million pounds of e-waste available for recycling every year, which would greatly decrease our country's reliance on foreign products if we were able to tap into this potential.

Currently, China and the Democratic Republic of Congo are two of the biggest providers of critical materials in the world, but they use unethical labor practices—like forced and child labor—to obtain these critical materials. The United States has some of the best labor and environmental standards in the world, which should be looked to as a model for advanced manufacturing.

We believe it is essential to mine, recover, and recycle the critical materials our country needs domestically. That is why USW District 11 urges the passage of S.F. 4523 (H.F. 4550) by the committee to ensure that the critical materials our country needs to make various products are obtained responsibly and continue to support good-paying, family-sustaining jobs into the future.

Sincerely,

  
Cathy Drummond  
Director  
USW District 11

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

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CONSERVATION  
MINNESOTA

April 3, 2024

Chair Hansen and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Conservation Minnesota urges you to **support HF4550 (Kozlowski)** and the establishment of a Critical Materials Recovery Advisory Task Force. As we look to improve our waste management and reuse systems, diverting and recovering valuable materials from our waste stream and putting them back to use in our renewable energy system can help us achieve our clean energy goals and solve our waste problem.

The task force proposed in HF4550 (Kozlowski) will serve an important role in preparing our systems to meet our modern waste and energy needs. Many of the products we rely on daily contain rare and valuable materials. These materials are necessary for developing the clean energy technology we need to meet our 2040 goals. While these materials are often extracted freshly in other countries, we currently sit on a large supply of our own in our waste stream, particularly in our electronic waste.

Developing the policies, procedures, and infrastructure to extract these critical materials and put them back to use provides several benefits. It will create jobs and increase economic opportunity across the state; it will help us reduce our growing waste stream; and it will ensure our ability to develop the renewable energy technologies we need domestically.

Managing these materials effectively requires us to investigate emerging technologies and research the most economical and environmentally sound methods for recovery and reuse. Establishing a truly circular system means not only recovering these materials but putting them back to use in our clean energy system. This bill brings us closer to closing that loop and developing a domestic supply chain to meet our energy needs.

We respectfully ask that this committee support HF4550 (Kozlowski) to lay the foundation for this system and ensure that we can recover and reuse these critical materials through reliable technologies and jobs here in Minnesota.

Sincerely,  
Nels Paulsen, Policy Director  
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April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

The Honorable Rick Hansen  
Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Hansen and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on House File 4550 (Kozlowski).

Fresh Energy has been working for decades to accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies, from wind and solar to electric transportation. With the global economy now unmistakably transitioning toward clean low and zero-carbon technologies across a broad range of applications, there is both urgency and opportunity to begin addressing product end-of-life issues, including and especially the recovery of materials used throughout the clean energy economy.

House File 4550 takes a pragmatic step toward addressing this emerging issue through the establishment of a Critical Materials Recovery Advisory Task Force. A task force such as the one proposed in HF4550 would allow for broad perspectives to be heard from a diverse set of stakeholders as the state develops policies and programs to address these issues. Fresh Energy also appreciates the specific direction that the task force should work to identify solutions that prevent high-value reusable materials from being disposed of through landfilling or incineration.

Our global energy transition is well underway, and developing supply chains for reusable materials recovery from clean energy products and other electronic waste is an essential strategy for ensuring that we are prepared and ready as this transition accelerates even further. For these reasons, Fresh Energy encourages members to support HF4550.

Sincerely,

Margaret Cherne-Hendrick  
Senior Lead, Innovation and Impact  
Fresh Energy  
[Cherne-hendrick@fresh-energy.org](mailto:Cherne-hendrick@fresh-energy.org)

April 2, 2024

Chair Hansen and members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee:

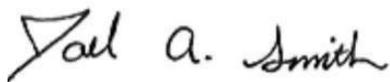
On behalf of the 14,000 members of Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota and their families, I am writing to express our support for establishing a Critical Materials Recovery Advisory Task Force (HF 4550/SF 4523). The proposed task force is one important step toward ensuring that Minnesota can help supply critical minerals needed to make technological progress and halt climate change.

LIUNA members build and maintain Minnesota's infrastructure, including transportation, water and energy systems that provide the foundation for a clean, equitable and inclusive economy. Our organization has been on the forefront of efforts to secure a prosperous clean energy future by supporting policies and projects designed to deliver affordable, reliable, and increasingly clean power and heat.

Minnesota has been a leader in the production of critical minerals. Our iron mines helped the United States win World War II and they continue to play a vital role in our economy. Today Minnesota has the potential to help lead in the production and recovery of minerals used to manufacture clean technologies ranging from wind and solar generators to electric vehicle and utility-scale batteries to transformers and electrolyzers.

HF 4550/SF 4523 will help our state better understand how we can leverage our resources and expertise to recover critical minerals while creating family-supporting jobs and growing our economy. We urge you to establish a Critical Materials Recovery Advisory Task Force. Thank you for your consideration.

In Solidarity,



Joel Smith  
President and Business Manager  
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota



April 2nd, 2024

The Honorable Representative Hansen  
Chair, Minnesota House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy  
407 State Office Building  
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Honorable Representative Hansen,

I am writing on behalf of MiningMinnesota to express our strong support for HF4550 regarding the recovery of critical materials from recycled products. We believe this bill represents a significant step forward in promoting sustainability, ensuring a secure domestic supply of critical materials, and reducing our reliance on foreign sources.

Every day and night, thousands of Americans work tirelessly to bring these materials out of the ground and into society's hands and we believe that those efforts should be honored and respected by keeping the materials in circulation. We recognize that critical materials play a crucial role in modern technologies and industries and are essential for a wide range of products, including electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, and medical devices. As we work towards our goal to achieve clean energy by 2040, we simply cannot allow critical materials to be lost to a landfill.

As technologies continue to emerge, we have the ability to stop relying on foreign production and lead the nation in safely recovering the critical materials from end-of-life products right here in our state. We can create a circular economy for critical materials where materials are reused and recycled to create a more sustainable system. In doing so, we can create strong jobs that will support families for decades to come.

HF4550 creates a task force charged with developing the roadmap to achieve this vision. The fight against climate change requires responsible development of our natural resources, from the needed domestic mining to the continual recycling and recovery of these materials. Please support this legislation so Minnesota is better positioned to lead in that fight.

Thank you for your consideration and dedication to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie C. Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Lucas  
Executive Director  
Mining Minnesota