



CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA

March 13, 2025

RE: HF1040 (Scott)

Chair Heintzeman, and members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Conservation Minnesota writes to you today to share our thoughts on HF1040 (Scott), and more broadly, on how we can ensure more responsible management of renewable energy technology upon the end of its usable life.

We believe strongly in both achieving Minnesota's clean energy goals and in greater support for solid waste systems to reduce pollution and toxics in our air, water and soil. Developing a circular clean energy economy will protect our climate and natural resources and will create more good jobs across all of Minnesota in energy production and material recovery.

Last year, we participated in MPCA's working group on solar panel reuse and recycling. The working group discussed several policy options, ultimately finding consensus around two proposals: a landfill ban for used solar panels and decreasing the megawatt threshold for requiring decommissioning plans. These proposals have been vetted and were supported by a variety of stakeholders, including representatives of the solar industry, municipalities, and environmental advocates like us. While an EPR system like the one proposed in HF1040 (Scott) was considered, it was ultimately deemed too costly and too difficult to implement today.

We believe that EPR systems can generally be useful for ensuring responsible end-of-life management of products but also see that it is not a system that works for solar panels at this time. However, the landfill ban in Section 4 of HF1040 (Scott) would be a valuable first step towards creating a cleaner, more circular clean energy system in Minnesota.

We strongly encourage the committee to consider a version of this bill which more closely aligns with the findings of the MPCA working group on solar panel recycling and reuse.

Sincerely,

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