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April 13, 2026

To: MN House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee

Re: HF2576 - Burning of pesticide containers prohibited - SUPPORT

Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR) is a statewide trade association representing the agricultural co-ops and ag retailers in Minnesota.

MCPR supports the proposal to ban the burning of pesticide containers.

Ag retailers in Minnesota strongly support efforts to responsibly manage empty pesticide containers. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture provides clear directions on the proper management and disposal of pesticide containers. Customers purchasing crop protection pesticides in plastic containers, 55 gallons or less, can return those containers to the place of purchase (Minnesota Statute 18B.135).

Additionally, free recycling is offered through the industry-supported Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC). The ACRC is an industry-funded non-profit that safely collects and recycles agricultural crop protection, animal health, specialty pest control, micronutrient, biologicals, fertilizer, and adjuvant product containers.

Our ag retailers and industry partners are well-positioned to help grower customers responsibly manage pesticide containers.

Again, thank you for your thoughtful consideration and ongoing support for agriculture in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Lee Helgen, Executive Director
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers



PO Box 1928, Apex, North Carolina 27502 | 877.952.2272 | info@agrecycling.org | agrecycling.org

April 9, 2025

The Honorable Rick Hansen, Bill Sponsor
Minnesota House of Representatives
Email: rep.rick.hansen@house.mn.gov

Peter Strohmeier, Committee Administrator
Minnesota House of Representatives
Email: Peter.Strohmeier@house.mn.gov

SUBJECT: House File 2576 / Senate File 2936 – Prohibition on Burning of Pesticide Containers: SUPPORT

Representative Hansen and Committee Members:

The Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of House File 2576 / Senate File 2936. ACRC can be reached for further follow-up as follows:

ACRC Contact Information:

Mark Hudson, Executive Director
Ag Container Recycling Council
PO Box 1928
Apex, NC 27502
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Office: 877-952-2272

Who is the ACRC?

The [Ag Container Recycling Council \(ACRC\)](http://agrecycling.org) is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit association that promotes and funds programs in the United States for the collection and recycling of plastic containers (up to and including 55 gallons) from agricultural pesticide, animal health, specialty pest control, micronutrient, biologicals, fertilizer, adjuvant, and surfactant products. It also funds research for determining acceptable end uses for the plastic collected in the program. ACRC was founded in February 1992 by 11 manufacturers, formulators, or packagers of such products. The ACRC was an instrumental resource in the development of the ANSI/ASABE S596 Standard, a standard specifying how to handle, clean, and recycle pesticide containers.

Today, the ACRC has [50 Regular Members and 19 Affiliate Member companies, for a total of 69 member companies](#). Manufacturers, formulators, or packagers of agricultural pesticide, animal health, specialty pest control, micronutrient, biologicals, fertilizer, adjuvant, and surfactant products

can be Regular Members. Any manufacturer of HDPE plastic containers or container components used by the companies that qualify for Regular Membership may be an Affiliate Member. ACRC is funded entirely by member dues.

Since 1992, ACRC and its contractors have successfully collected and recycled over 268 million pounds of HDPE containers into carefully vetted end uses such as agricultural drain tile, underground electrical conduit, landscaping edging, and nursery pots.

ACRC has been collecting agricultural chemical containers in Minnesota since 1993. Since that time, ACRC has collected and recycled more than 8.9 million pounds of agricultural container plastic in the state. Over the past 10 years, ACRC has averaged approximately 390,000 pounds of collection per year in Minnesota, and over the past 5 years that average has grown to approximately 520,000 pounds per year — a trend that reflects both the continued need for and the growing farmer awareness of responsible container disposal options.

ACRC Written Testimony regarding HF 2576 / SF 2936:

ACRC writes in strong support of HF 2576 / SF 2936, which would add an explicit prohibition on the burning of pesticide containers under Minnesota Statutes § 18B.07, subdivision 8. This bill is well-aligned with ACRC's core mission and with the environmental stewardship principles that have guided our work in Minnesota for more than three decades.

It is important to note that while the bill's title references "pesticide containers," the scope of agricultural chemical containers collected through ACRC's program extends well beyond pesticides. ACRC collects plastic containers from a broad range of agricultural product categories, including:

- Pesticides
- Fertilizers
- Animal health products
- Micronutrients
- Biologicals
- Adjuvants and surfactants

These containers are used by both farmers and licensed professional chemical applicators. ACRC supports policy approaches that address the full universe of agricultural chemical containers, and we would welcome dialogue with the sponsor about whether the scope of the bill could be broadened in future iterations to reflect the full range of products handled by our program.

The environmental case for this legislation is clear and compelling. Open burning of agricultural plastic containers — which are made of HDPE and may retain residues of pesticides or other regulated substances — releases toxic air pollutants, dioxins, and particulate matter. These outcomes are significantly worse than responsible collection and recycling. The prohibition established by this bill would eliminate a disposal practice that is inconsistent with modern environmental standards and incompatible with Minnesota's commitment to clean air and water.

ACRC believes that containers not presented for recycling are most commonly either landfilled, openly burned, buried, or burned and then buried. Based on our program experience, nationwide we

estimate that roughly half of the containers that are not brought to ACRC collection events are landfilled and the other half are burned. This bill directly addresses that latter pathway, which is both an air quality and a public health concern.

By codifying a burn prohibition into Minnesota's pesticide statute, HF 2576 / SF 2936 also reinforces the importance of accessible collection infrastructure. ACRC is committed to continuing to expand collection access across Minnesota so that farmers have a convenient, lawful, and environmentally responsible alternative to burning or landfilling.

We commend Representative Hansen for introducing this straightforward and impactful legislation, and we urge the committee to advance it promptly.

Thank you for your consideration of our support.

Sincerely,

J. Mark Hudson

J. Mark Hudson
Executive Director, ACRC

April 13, 2026

Representative Rick Hansen
Co-Chair, Agriculture Finance and Policy
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Paul Anderson
Co-Chair, Agriculture Finance and Policy
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 2576, Burning of Pesticide Containers Prohibited

Dear Co-Chairs Anderson and Hansen and Members of the Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee,

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 the communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.

The Partnership agrees with the intent of HF 2576 to prohibit the burning of pesticide containers. We do, however, have concerns with potential unintended consequences due to the simplicity of the language. Waste-to-energy facilities that incinerate waste are passive receivers of the materials that businesses and individuals put into the waste stream. Current law does have specific disposal requirements for pesticide containers, but we know that the law is not always followed, and items end up in the waste stream that should not be there. We are concerned that the plain language of HF 2576 creates a liability for waste-to-energy facilities who may inadvertently incinerate a pesticide container without knowledge or intent.

As a solution we suggest adding the word “knowingly” to the legislation: “(b) A person is prohibited from knowingly disposing a pesticide container by burning.” We are happy to work with the author and the committee on this or other language to address our concerns and preserve the intent of the legislation.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy