

February 09, 2022

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

Dear Chair Hansen and Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

MICA is a voluntary association whose members include fifteen of Minnesota's larger and faster growing counties, including four suburban and eleven Greater Minnesota counties that together are home to nearly 35 percent of the state's residents.

MICA strongly supports H.F. 836 (Richardson, Hansen) to fully repay the Metropolitan Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) account by transferring \$13.905 million from the General Fund to the MLCAT. We also support repaying the lost interest earnings for the period those funds were absent from the MLCAT account.

MLCAT was created to provide funding for the long-term care of certain closed Mixed Municipal Solid Waste (MMSW) landfills in the metro area. A total of \$13.905 million was transferred out of MLCAT in 2003 and 2005. Action taken in 2021 to appropriate \$100,000 annually to begin repaying MLCAT is appreciated but would require 140 years to complete repayment. Estimated care costs at MLCAT eligible landfills far exceed that repayment schedule, further justifying immediate and full repayment to safeguard public and environmental health.

In addition, a 2010 law similarly transferred \$48 million from the Closed Landfill Investment Fund (CLIF) to the General Fund to help balance the state budget and included a requirement to repay CLIF with interest. Those funds have also not been fully repaid, and MICA respectfully urges the legislature to do so in 2022.

Thank you to Representative Richardson for authoring HF836, and thank you Chair Hansen and committee members for hearing this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association
763-458-1681 (cell)
Matt.Massman@mica.org

Cc: Representative Ruth Richardson

February 8, 2022

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

Re: Support for H.F. 836, MLCAT account repayment

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 fully supports H.F. 836 (Rep. Richardson, Rep. Hansen) to transfer \$13.905 million from the general fund to fully repay the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) account.

The MLCAT is an important mechanism to protect public health and the environment and address critical needs resulting from landfill pollution. The Partnership has testified previously in support of full repayment of the MLCAT account, after it had been raided twice since 2003 to balance the general fund budget.

Legislative action last session provides annual repayment of \$100,000 to the MLCAT starting in FY 2022. At that rate, it would take 140 years to repay the account. This falls far short of what is urgently needed now and in the coming years to address costly care needs at metro area landfills, including four landfills in the counties represented in the Partnership.

The Partnership thanks you for co-authoring H.F. 836 and supporting efforts to secure full repayment of the MLCAT account in 2022. We urge the committee to advance H.F. 836.

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 Policy and Finance Committee members



www.mncounties.org



www.mn-swaa.org

February 10, 2022

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

Re: HF836 (Richardson) Metropolitan landfill contingency action trust account money transferred

Dear Chair Hansen and committee members:

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) is a membership-based organization representing all 87 Minnesota counties and the Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA) is an AMC affiliate that represents the interests of county and waste districts professional staff. Both AMC and SWAA advocate for policies and funding that improve and promote responsible waste management and reduce environmental impacts of solid waste.

AMC and SWAA support Representative Richardson's bill (HF836) to repay \$13.905 million in prior transfers from the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) account, and believe it is appropriate to amend the appropriation to include interest and lost earnings that were a part of the original repayment schedule.

The MLCAT is necessary to address emergency and long-term care at landfills and waste disposal sites in the seven-county metro area and the fund balance is already inadequate to address the expected expenses at eligible sites within three years.

AMC and SWAA also supports repayment of funds (\$38.1 million) that have been transferred from the Closed Landfill Investment Fund (CLIF). CLIF has also been used to balance the General Fund deficits, depleting resources used for management and clean-up of 114 closed landfills across the state.

We appreciate your support of these efforts, Chair Hansen, and encourage the committee to vote in favor of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Todd Patzer in black ink.

Commissioner Todd Patzer, Lac qui Parle County
President, Association of Minnesota Counties

Handwritten signature of Laine Sletta in black ink.

Laine Sletta, Brown County
President, Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association

cc: House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee