



Minnesota House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee  
Chair Zach Stephenson

March 19, 2024

Re: Supporting HF 3566

Chair Stephenson and Members,

Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP) is a statewide coalition of more than 70 environment and conservation organizations and other groups that align with MEP's mission and collaborative approach. MEP and the organizations signing below are writing in support of HF 3566 (Hollins), a robust 100% E-waste Recycling Bill that would establish a state program to collect and recycle 100% of electronic waste. This bill would be funded by a small fee on the sales of recyclable electronics.

Electronic waste is a large and growing environmental threat for Minnesota's communities. It contributes to increasingly frequent landfill fires. It threatens workers on the frontlines such as garbage collection workers: the National Waste and Recycling Association reports that the average week sees a hauling truck start on fire due to a battery from an electronic device. And this waste contributes 70% of the lead pollution in landfills, especially threatening marginalized communities downwind and downstream.

This challenge is also an economic opportunity. Minnesota's annual e-waste stream contains \$3 billion worth of precious metals, many of which are used in clean energy. By recycling our e-waste, we can create an estimated 1700 direct jobs and recover nearly 40% of the metals for the clean energy transition even as we reduce the pollution in our land, air, and water.

Our current electronics recycling programs are not up to the challenge of turning Minnesota's e-waste into economic gains. The 100% Collection Bill would replace these outdated programs and achieve free, statewide collection by making the following changes:

**Expanding the definition.** By creating a comprehensive definition of what is covered, the 100% Collection Bill provides sustainability to the program as the e-waste stream changes.

**Providing free collection for all.** The bill will provide free collection of electronic waste for all Minnesotans, funded by a small fee on manufacturers and retailers of those products.

**Create incentives for waste diversion.** By directly reimbursing collection sites for the electronics recycled, the 100% Collection Bill provides an incentive to collect more, increasing the State's diversion rate.

Minnesota has the means to end the era of dumping hazardous electronics into our land and water and to reap the benefits of a comprehensive recycling program for all of our communities. Rather than burying a motherlode of resources below our soil, we can put these materials to use in a cleaner, more sustainable economy.

We are happy to provide additional information and appreciate your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,



Steve Morse  
Executive Director

*Submitted on behalf of the following organizations:*

Alliance for Sustainability

Clean Water Action Minnesota

CURE

Environmental Justice Coordinating Council\*

Eureka Recycling

Fresh Energy

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness

Friends of the Mississippi River

Lakeville Friends of the Environment\*

League of Women Voters Minnesota

Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Minnesota Ornithologists Union

MN350

Sierra Club North Star Chapter

St. Paul Audubon Society

Tamarack Water Alliance\*

Vote Climate

WaterLegacy

*\*denotes non-MEP member*