

March 4, 2024

Senator D. Scott Dibble  
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee  
3107 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Support for S.F. 2584 (Clean Transportation Standard Act)**

Dear Chair Dibble,

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 is part of a broad coalition that supports the proposed Clean Transportation Standard (CTS) Act (S.F. 2584). The CTS Act is a technology-neutral, all-of-the-above approach to decarbonizing transportation, the highest greenhouse gas emitting sector in the state. The Act is good for the state's environment and economy. It will also help solve challenging waste issues.

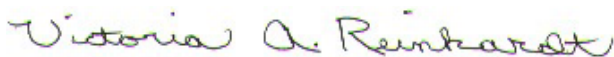
State law requires metro counties to raise the current recycling rate of 45% to 75% by 2030. Recycling organic waste, primarily food waste, will be necessary if we are to achieve this goal. Hundreds of thousands of tons of organic waste—30% of the state's trash—are available for recovery each year.

Organics recycling programs are in the early stages of development. A key limiting factor is available infrastructure to process the organics into beneficial products. Composting is the most common organics processing method, but anaerobic digestion (also known as AD) is a higher use for this material. AD has the benefit of producing carbon negative transportation fuels like renewable natural gas.

The CTS Act also provides a pathway to using woody biomass to produce biofuels. Emerald Ash Borer infestations are now documented in 50 counties and climbing. With uncertainties surrounding the long-term use of wood waste for biomass energy production at District Energy's St. Paul facility, currently the only significant, practical choice for handling this waste in the greater metro region, more options are urgently needed to productively manage the surging volume of tree waste in the state.

The Partnership believes the CTS Act will lead to strong, reliable markets for biofuels and would support the development of much needed infrastructure to capture maximum resource value from organic and woody waste and reduce climate impacts. We urge the committee to support the CTS Act.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County  
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy