

March 25, 2024



Minnesota Senate  
Environment, Climate, and Legacy

**Re: Permeable Synthetic Turf (SF3869)**

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Committee

The Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition, on behalf of the organizations listed below, are writing in opposition to HFSF3869.

Our coalition works to empower Minnesotans to have a voice when it comes to waste. Our movement centers the voices and experiences of frontline communities, who are most negatively and directly impacted by the extraction of resources, production of goods, and disposal of waste.

Installing permeable synthetic turf to control stormwater runoff is a false solution and should not be considered by the state as a “best practice.” Rather, Minnesotans should be made aware of the environmental impacts.

One major issue is related to microplastic pollution. Synthetic turf is typically made from polyethylene or polypropylene, which are types of plastic. Over time, the turf breaks down, shedding microplastics into the environment, including waterways and soil. These microplastics can be harmful to wildlife and ecosystems.

Additionally, the infill material used in synthetic turf, often made from recycled tires, can release harmful chemicals and compounds into the environment. Runoff from synthetic turf fields can also contain pollutants like heavy metals and chemicals used in the turf’s production, which can negatively impact water quality.

Proper disposal of synthetic turf at the end of its life cycle is another concern. Since it is made of plastic, it does not biodegrade and can contribute to landfill waste if not recycled properly.

The state should focus on actual solutions that are good for both the environment and human health. We urge you to vote no on this bill.

Sincerely,



Krystle D'Alencar  
Member of the [MN Zero Waste Coalition](#)  
Organizer, Minnesota Environmental Justice Table



Lucy Mullany  
Member of the [MN Zero Waste Coalition](#)  
Director of Policy & Advocacy, Eureka Recycling

**Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition Members:**

Beyond Plastic Mankato Area  
Coalition to Reduce Plastic  
Climate Generation  
Clean Water Action / Fund  
CURE Minnesota  
Eureka Recycling  
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate (HPHC)  
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
Minnesota Environmental Justice Table  
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light  
MN350  
Recycling Electronics for Climate Action (RECA)  
Reuse Minnesota  
Rusty & the Crew  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter