



March 5, 2024

Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy
1150 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Testimony in Support of SF3940

Dear Senator Hawj and members of the Senate Environment Committee,

My name is Kathleen Doran-Norton. I am a member and volunteer with the League of Women Voters Minnesota.

I live in Bridgewater Township, Rice County where last May a landfill fire sparked by a battery grew the size of a football field, and 30 feet deep, so this issue is personal for me.

When the current bi-partisan electronic waste recycling bill passed in 2007, it recycled 70% of electronics. But today, with changes in technology, we only recycle 24% of electronics. Current laws and programs must be updated to deal with an increase of electronics in our waste stream.

When it comes to environmental protection and pollution control, the League believes in a problem solving approach. We believe that this bill offers a solution to the damaging effects of electronic waste. The fees collected would encourage and allow counties in Minnesota to collect all electronics. Managing waste should be considered a cost of providing a product or service, and consumers must expect to pay some of it.

Moreover, by reducing what goes into incinerators and landfills, we reduce the pollutants that often have more impact on vulnerable Minnesota neighborhoods and communities, a racial justice issue. There is a landfill on the banks of the wild and scenic Cannon River in my township which should also compel us to take action to protect our pristine land and water.

Lastly, collecting and recycling 100% of electronics creates the opportunity for new jobs and new businesses by reclaiming enough copper for 155,000 EV's annually as well as 16 other metals and minerals. Using the resources that are instead wasted for our renewable economy is just common sense. This bill allows Minnesota to grow our economy, clean up our air and water, and think about the next generation.

Please support 100% electronics recycling, SF3940, now. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Doran-Norton - Member & Volunteer, League of Women Voters Minnesota