

March 26, 2024

Dear Chair Hawj and Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee Members:

I am writing today on behalf of the Coalition for Plastic Reduction in opposition to the following bill: SF 3869 - Installation of permeable synthetic turf added to best management practices to control stormwater runoff provision.

Our concerns are as follows:

- **Microplastics - environment**
Permeable synthetic turf is made of plastic blades of grass. They will be exposed to sunlight, and extreme weather conditions, which will cause them to break down and shed microplastic particles. Using this product for stormwater runoff control will result in these particles going directly into our water systems. This plastic material is also made with toxic chemical additives which constantly leach and will end up in the surrounding environment. Plastic particles have been found in our drinking water and even in rainwater. Using permeable synthetic turf to control stormwater runoff will only increase the magnitude of this problem.
- **Microplastics – health**
Microplastics have been found in human blood, lungs, stool, placenta and breastmilk. They have been found in all organs of the body, including the brain, in cadaver tissue. Microplastics enter our organs and can cause organ dysfunction. Nanoplastics enter our cells and can damage the cellular structure. The full impact of these particles on our health is not yet known but plastic does not belong in our bodies.
- **Climate change and environmental justice**
Plastic releases methane when exposed to the elements, which contributes to climate change. Methane is 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. In addition, plastic production is an environmental justice issue with front-line communities, like Cancer Alley in Louisiana, suffering from toxic pollution. It also impacts front-line communities in Minnesota when it is disposed of in landfills or incinerators.

Microplastic particles are found everywhere on the planet. They are in the air, water, and soil and they are in us. We need to decrease our exposure to plastic. We urge you to reconsider recommending using permeable synthetic turf as a best management practice.

Sincerely,
Lori Olinger
Coalition for Plastic Reduction