



Senator Matt Klein  
95 University Ave. W  
2105 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Gary Dahms  
95 University Avenue W.  
2219 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 26, 2026

Dear Chair Klein, Ranking Member Dahms and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Inter-County Association's (MICA) 17 member counties, we are writing in support of SF1690, as amended during today's hearing, which provides a much-needed update to Minnesota's waste collection law by establishing a product stewardship program for batteries.

County support for product stewardship stems from our own investments in innovative approaches to solid waste management, prioritizing waste reduction and recycling activities. However, manufacturers and producers are uniquely positioned to help mitigate the hazards of end-of-life disposal for products like batteries. MICA appreciates the significant steps taken by the Legislature in 2024 aimed at reducing the quantity of packaging waste and paper products entering landfills. SF 1690 represents a reasonable next step in extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation to ensure all stakeholders are involved in mitigating the environmental consequences of our growing waste problem.

Counties consistently spend significantly more on managing solid waste than we receive from existing state funding sources like the solid waste management tax (SWMT). Minnesota's current law governing the disposal of batteries is outdated, with counties shouldering most of the financial and operational burdens for keeping these products out of landfills and disposal facilities. Counties have tried to keep up with a rapidly evolving battery and electronics market, but a standardized, statewide approach will make safe disposal methods equally available to all consumers and ultimately decrease costs for local governments. Legislative action is needed to ensure that the industries responsible for designing and producing batteries have a share in the cost for managing these products, and we recommend the advancement of SF1690 to relieve the burden and risk on counties and local taxpayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nathan Jesson'.

Nathan Jesson  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Inter-County Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rachel Sosnowchik'.

Rachel Sosnowchik  
Environmental Liaison  
Minnesota Inter-County Association