



Chair Hawj and Members of the Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA), thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on oversight of waste incineration.

AMC and SWAA support Minnesota's waste management hierarchy, which prioritizes waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and organics recovery, while recognizing waste-to-energy (WTE) as preferable to landfilling. WTE facilities play an important role in reducing the volume of waste requiring disposal, minimizing reliance on landfills, and mitigating long-term land and air pollution associated with buried waste.

We support transparent regulatory oversight of WTE facilities. Counties and solid waste administrators understand that these facilities must be carefully permitted, monitored, and accountable. Existing facilities in Minnesota operate under stringent state and federal requirements and consistently meet or exceed their permitted standards. Maintaining this level of oversight is essential to ensuring public confidence and environmental protection.

AMC and SWAA are committed to a zero-waste future and recognize the impacts of waste across environmental systems, including air, land, and water. Continued progress toward shared goals will require sustained investment in waste reduction, recycling, and organics infrastructure, alongside responsible management of residual waste. In this context, WTE remains a necessary and regulated component of an integrated system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Martinson".

Brian Martinson, Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randy Kiser".

Randy Kiser, Executive Director
Solid Waste Administrators Association