



Chair Fong Hawj
3231 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Ranking Member Steve Green
2319 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 14, 2026

Dear Chair Hawj and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Inter-County Association's (MICA) 17 member counties, we are writing in support of SF4214, which provides a much-needed update to Minnesota's waste collection law by establishing a workable product stewardship program for batteries in Article 2. The updated language included in the Senate environment omnibus reflects extensive stakeholder feedback, particularly from industry groups, to ensure the viability of this new program.

County support for product stewardship stems from our own investments in innovative approaches to solid waste management, based on Minnesota's waste management hierarchy which prioritizes 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 supports and appreciates the significant steps taken in 2024 aimed at reducing the quantity of packaging waste and paper products entering landfills. SF4214 represents a reasonable next step in extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation to ensure all stakeholders are involved in addressing the environmental consequences of our growing waste problem.

With MICA counties managing nearly half (44%) of the waste generated in the state¹, we are especially aware of the risks posed by batteries that end up in landfills or other waste management facilities, where hazardous materials can leak and contaminate the soil and groundwater. 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 better protect our environment. We hope that you will support SF4214 and ensure that Minnesota is leading the way in removing some of the most toxic products from our waste stream.

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

¹ Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 2024 SCORE Report