

**MINNESOTA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

GROWING MINNESOTA

April 9, 2026

Senator FOUNG HAWJ
Chairman
Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee

Chairman Hawj:

On behalf of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, a statewide organization representing more than 6,300 businesses and more than half a million employees, I write today regarding the DE Amendment to SF 1690 (Sen. Kupec), which creates a standalone removable batteries-only product stewardship program.

Since the initial introduction of an electronic waste and batteries extended producer responsibility proposal last session, the Minnesota Chamber has remained ready and willing to engage in dialogue with all stakeholders. We participated, along with other industry representatives, nonprofits, public sector leaders, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in several working group sessions over the interim to find agreement where possible.

The group reached consensus on several issues, including adequately reimbursing counties, operating a flexible program overseen by MPCA, preserving a market-based Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) structure, and creating separate programs for batteries and electronic waste. There never was unanimity in the working group sessions, but robust consensus was common.

MPCA chose a different route and is only moving forward with a bill addressing removable batteries. While separating batteries from electronic waste is a key principle, it is only one of many issues remaining.

The legislature has the option to solve both electronic waste and battery product stewardship this session. We encourage policy makers to advance compromise solutions that provide convenience for consumers, safe disposal of products, and appropriate reimbursement for counties with reasonable costs for all.

Thank you to the Committee for your work on this issue. The Minnesota Chamber and its members stand ready and willing to solve the battery and electronic waste stewardship problem.

Sincerely,



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