



MINNESOTA
RESOURCE
RECOVERY
ASSOCIATION

ZERO WASTED
MAKING EVERY RESOURCE COUNT

April 9, 2026

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

The Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRA) is pleased to offer our support for SF 1690, which establishes a product stewardship program for circuit boards, batteries, and electrical products.

The MRRA is a private-public membership organization that supports the utilization of today's waste as a local, renewable, and sustainable resource for tomorrow's energy. Our membership represents more than one-third of Minnesota counties and their solid waste management and recycling programs.

We know from experience that batteries—particularly lithium-ion—are increasingly entering the mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) stream, creating significant safety risks, including fires at solid waste facilities. Our facilities regularly see lithium-ion batteries in the handling and processing of MSW and are frequently witnessing multiple small fires at our facilities.

Minnesota has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on infrastructure to properly process MSW and recyclable materials, and these facilities are all at risk. There are significant concerns that if the rate of incoming batteries and embedded electronics is not reduced, there will be an increase in fires at solid waste facilities statewide.

According to the recently published 9th Annual Waste & Recycling Facility Fires Report, the surge in lithium-ion battery incidents has now become a widespread reality across the waste and recycling stream. While operators have made meaningful progress through updated emergency plans, employee training, and new fire detection technologies, the scale of the problem continues to grow. This report estimates that in 2025, solid waste related fires caused more than \$2.5 billion in damages in the United States and Canada.

SF 1690 provides a comprehensive and forward-looking approach to addressing one of the fastest-growing safety challenges in the waste stream. By establishing a stewardship structure that includes convenient statewide collection, integration of current household hazardous waste programs, strong safety standards, producer-funded system, and recovery targets, the bill helps reduce risks to staff, facilities, and communities statewide.

MRRA supports continued stakeholder engagement on implementation details, including the management of recalled batteries and embedded products, to ensure the program functions effectively.

MRRA supports SF 1690 to improve safety and environmental outcomes for Minnesotans. Thank you for considering this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Holl".

Sam Holl, Acting Chair
Minnesota Resource Recovery Association