



MINNESOTA
RESOURCE
RECOVERY
ASSOCIATION

ZERO WASTED
MAKING EVERY RESOURCE COUNT

April 14, 2026

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

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 appreciate the opportunity to express support for two provisions of the Delete Everything amendment to S.F. 4214 that will have a beneficial impact on public health and the environment and help counties, businesses and consumers be more successful in properly managing problem wastes.

Battery Product Stewardship

We know from experience that batteries—particularly lithium-ion—are increasingly entering the mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) stream and creating significant safety risks. Our staff at resource recovery facilities regularly see lithium-ion batteries in the handling and processing of MSW that can lead to frequent facility fires.

S.F. 4214 as amended will provide 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 reduces risks to staff, facilities, and communities statewide. In addition, MRRA supports continued stakeholder engagement on program implementation details, including the management of recalled batteries and embedded products, to ensure the program functions effectively.

Management of Infectious and Pathological Wastes

MRRA also supports legislative action to address the increased frequency infectious and pathological wastes are directed to resource recovery facilities. This material poses significant health risks to staff and facilities face inordinate financial and operational burdens in managing this unacceptable material safely.

Current laws and regulations make it illegal to dispose of this material with regular trash. However, hospitals, medical facilities and other similar generators need stronger incentives in state law to do the right thing, to keep this material separate from other waste materials and ensure it is appropriately managed. S.F. 4214 as amended updates state law to include these needed incentives and enforcement mechanisms.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the MRRA's positions as the Committee develops an omnibus bill. We stand ready to work together on these issues for the benefit of our communities as the Environment and Natural Resources omnibus bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

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

Sam Holl, Acting Chair
Minnesota Resource Recovery Association