

I care about the environment and want to protect it from pollution. Plastic pollution is a major concern that has reached crisis level. I am writing to ask you to support **The Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Bill introduced by Representative Sydney Jordan HF 3577 and Senator Morrison SF 3561, the Beverage Container Recycling Refund Program HF 3200 SF 3260, and the Ban on Toxics in Plastic Packaging bill.**

The Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction bill HF 3577 introduced by state Representative Sydney Jordan and **SF 3561** introduced by state Senator Kelly Morrison in the senate requires producers to pay for the full life cycle of their packaging. By setting performance targets, The Packaging Waste bill requires producers to pay for the full cycle of their packaging. By setting performance targets, the bill requires producers to eliminate the most problematic packaging and single-use products and redesign packaging to be reusable, refillable, recyclable or compostable. Producers would be charged a fee based on the amount of packaging they are putting into the market and how sustainable and non-toxic that packaging is. The program would be managed by a producer responsibility organization under the oversight of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and an advisory board.

The Beverage Container Recycling Refund program bill HF 3200 introduced by state Representative Sydney Jordan and **SF 3260** introduced by state Senator Kelly Morrison requires beverage producers to include a deposit amount on their beverage containers (plastic, metal and glass) that is charged to the consumer at the time of purchase and refunded when it is returned. Returned beverage containers must be recycled or reused. The beverage producer organizations are responsible for funding the take back depots and infrastructure to collect, recycle or reuse the beverage containers.

The Ban on Toxic Chemicals bill (no bill number yet) bans the toxic chemicals and materials commonly found in plastic packaging. Each of the chemicals are either known carcinogens (cancer causing), hormone disruptors or neuro-toxicants. The endocrine (hormone) disruptors chemicals mimic hormones and disrupt signaling throughout our body. The disruptions can lead to obesity; diabetes; high blood pressure; heart, autoimmune, neurological and lung diseases. They can hijack reproductive signals speeding puberty, lowering sperm count and prompting infertility. They are also associated with cancer - especially breast, prostate and testicular cancers. The neurological effects are disturbed brain development leading to lower I.Q., ADHD and autism-spectrum disorders. In fetuses, they can cause premature or still births, birth defects of the reproductive organs, impaired lung growth and childhood cancer. A recent report in the Annals of Global Health 2023 conservatively estimates that Americans spent over \$1.5 trillion on health care costs related to plastics in 2015.

These three bills will address the terrible harm plastics are causing the health of all life on earth; the pollution and GHG from plastic production that are contributing to climate change and the cost to the communities that have to handle the plastic.

The U.S. is the largest generator of plastic waste. Microplastics never completely break down so they accumulate in our environment. Without actions taken at every level of government plastic production will outpace coal fired plants in GHG emissions by 2030. The best packaging and containers are those which local governments never have to manage – compostable, reusable or refillable.

Thank you,