

Senator Nick Frentz
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3109
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-6153

Dear Senator Frentz,

I am asking you to support the 100% Electronic Waste Collection and Recycling Bill that aims to increase the State's electronic waste recycling rate from 24% to one hundred percent. The bill is targeting an estimated 133 million pounds of material, and would replace MN 115A.1310, the 2007 program that originally supported 40 million pounds of electronic waste collection, and has steadily declined to funding 20 million pounds of recycling in 2021.

Electronics are highly recyclable, and the metals they contain are almost infinitely circular and valued at \$3.2 billion dollars annually in Minnesota. By creating a collection system that will get us closer to 100% diversion, we can create an estimated 1700 jobs in the state of Minnesota. We can provide precious metals needed for the clean energy transition, reduce our dependence on foreign and virgin material and put an end to the environmental injustice it causes in our traditional waste streams.

Electronic waste (e-waste) contains toxic material such as: lead, mercury, barium, lithium, chromium, polychlorinated biphenyls, and brominated flame retardants. If our electronics are not disposed of properly, they create pollution and environmental injustices. Pollution from our waste disproportionately affects our most marginalized communities who consistently have higher exposure and health problems as a result. In Minnesota, eighty percent of our landfills have leaching problems, allowing pollution from this material to poison the surrounding farmland, and our groundwater.

The workers on the frontlines handling our waste also suffer when this material is not disposed of properly. Lithium-Ion batteries wreak havoc for our waste handlers. The National Waste and recycling association - NWRA reports that nationally one hauling truck starts on fire every week due to a battery from an electronic device putting workers at extreme risk.

Inaction on the issue of electronic waste is costing us more every year. Nationally 3% of the United States' waste infrastructure is lost to fires caused by improperly disposed batteries, and the problem is rapidly getting worse. Local landfill operators report that spot fires are occurring every few days, and as we saw in Rice County at the end of May this year, this fire grew to the size of a football field, and burned 30 feet deep. It took almost a week to put out this fire and polluted the air, water and crops for miles.

100% Electronic Waste Collection and Recycling Bill will divert electronic waste to recycling in the following ways by expanding the definition of covered electronic device; providing free collection for all; and creating incentives for waste diversion.

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