

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Bill Ingebrigtsen, Chair  
Environment and Natural Resources Finance  
Minnesota State Senate  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3207  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chair Ingebrigtsen:

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), and the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH), we write to express our appreciation for your efforts to address Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Minnesota.

CWD, whether found in farmed cervidae or in the wild, presents a significant threat to Minnesota's deer herd, as well as our agricultural and outdoor heritage. While there is still much we do not understand about CWD and its potentially devastating impact on our deer and elk populations, we do understand that we must be aggressive and work together to minimize its presence in our state. We must continue to monitor for the disease, respond when new occurrences are found, and ensure we minimize the risk by implementing best management practices among farm cervid operations and hunters. We also must focus on the disease itself by funding critical research projects to better understand CWD.

As you know, the DNR and the BAH signed a Memorandum of Understanding earlier this year that represents a cross agency commitment to better coordinate CWD prevention and response as well as to share information. The DNR, the MDA, and the BAH, have sought and learned from input from a wide array of stakeholders in the agricultural, outdoor, and veterinarian communities. Additionally, we have benefitted from discussion with officials in both the Minnesota House and Senate. Collectively, we stand ready to continue working with each other, affected parties, the Legislature, and Governor Walz to address CWD concerns moving forward.

We have been grateful of the work that you and others have done thus far to facilitate a conversation about CWD at the Legislature and to promote action that increases our agencies' ability to address this critical issue. Furthermore, we are united in our support of the CWD provisions contained in S.F. 2314 including, but not limited to, enhanced fencing requirements and mandatory depopulation after infection. We know that these provisions represent a commitment to working together in the future to aggressively address the threat of CWD in Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Sarah Strommen, Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources

Beth Thompson, Executive Director  
Board of Animal Health

Thom Petersen, Commissioner  
Department of Agriculture

## MINNESOTA BRIGHTFIELDS: FUNDING AN EQB STUDY FOR SOLAR ON CLOSED LANDFILL PROGRAM SITES SF 2314 Environmental Finance Omnibus Bill Talking Points

### Problem

See: P. R14-A1 (Funding)  
P. R135-ARTICLE 3 (Policy)

There is both interest and willingness from State agencies to pursue solar on Closed Landfill Program Sites, a beneficial reuse of currently unusable land, but there's also significant technical barriers and further information needed to even start the conversation to develop solar on these sites. This effort requires input from various agencies, each with its own staffing, funding and competing directives. These competing interests push this great idea to the sidelines.

### Solution / Senate Omnibus Bill Overview

Funds a \$300,000 Environmental Quality Board study from the Closed Landfill Program Fund to assess 24 of PCA's 110 Closed Landfill Program Sites, identifying barriers in legal, property and technical subject areas across impacted agencies, and develop a replicable framework to streamline and increase development of solar on CLP sites that can be applied to other landfills/brownfields in the state going forward.

### Why Is A Study Needed & Why Now?

Solar on Closed Landfill Program sites can benefit nearby communities, the economy, and typically is a non-controversial use of otherwise unused land. Solar on CLP Sites can mitigate PCA greenhouse gas emissions, which make up 18% of the State's total agency emissions and typically affect nearby low-income and environmental justice communities. This effort would result in smart, beneficial land re-use.

It also has the potential to significantly increase solar installations statewide, and can add significant economic value in greater Minnesota with jobs for electricians, plus other solar and ancillary service providers (from insurers and financiers, to engineers and installers).

### Talking Points / Positive Impact of the Study:

1. Opens the door to valuable & beneficial use of Closed Landfill Program sites within a year
2. Enables cross-agency and stakeholder input, resulting in smart land reuse ideas. This is not present now with agency funding & directives
3. Offsets impacts of Methane & GHG emissions from CLP sites statewide, helping adjacent Low-Income and Environmental Justice areas
4. Develops a framework for permitting and approving similar sites going forward: this benefits both State agencies and developers alike

### Talking Points / Funding Source Item to Consider Amending--current language proposes funding from the Closed Landfill Program Fund:

5. Original bill (SF 2417 / HF 2437) sourced General Funds for the study: we support reverting to the original language