

January 24, 2023

Representative Rick Hansen
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
407 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: H.F 410, Repayment of Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust

Dear Chair Hansen,

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board consisting of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties, formed to address waste management and energy issues. The Partnership seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.

The Partnership strongly supports H.F. 410 (Rep. Richardson, Rep. Hansen) to transfer \$29.055 million from the general fund to fully repay the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) account and compensate for lost investment income to support the account.

The MLCAT is an important mechanism to protect public health and the environment and address critical needs resulting from landfill pollution. The Partnership has testified previously in support of full repayment of the MLCAT account, after it had been raided twice since 2003 to balance the general fund budget.

Legislative action in 2021 provides for annual repayment of \$100,000 to the MLCAT starting in FY 2022. At that rate, it would take nearly 300 years to full repay the account. This falls far short of what is urgently needed now and in the coming years to protect public health and address costly care needs at metro area landfills, including four landfills in the counties represented in the Partnership.

The Partnership thanks you for co-authoring H.F. 410 and supporting efforts to secure full repayment of the MLCAT account. We urge the committee to advance H.F. 410.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy

cc: House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy committee members



www.mncounties.org



www.mn-swaa.org

January 25, 2023

Representative Rick Hansen
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
407 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF410 (Richardson) Metropolitan landfill contingency action trust account money transferred

Dear Chair Hansen and committee members:

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) is a membership-based organization representing all 87 Minnesota counties and the Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA) is an AMC affiliate that represents the interests of county and waste districts professional staff. Both AMC and SWAA advocate for policies and funding that improve and promote responsible waste management and reduce environmental impacts of solid waste.

AMC and SWAA support Representative Richardson's bill (HF410) to repay prior transfers from the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) account. The MLCAT is necessary to address emergency and long-term care at landfills and waste disposal sites in the seven-county metro area. The fund balance is already inadequate to address the expected expenses at eligible sites within three years.

MLCAT's primary revenue source is the fee on solid waste deposited at metro landfills. When these transfers were made to balance general fund budget deficits there was a commitment to repay those borrowed funds with interest and lost earnings. The repayment schedule was subsequently cancelled but the obligations of this fund have continued to grow.

We encourage the committee to vote in favor of this legislation. The opportunity of the current budget surplus makes now the time to repay past transfers and extend the ability of MLCAT to address emergency and ongoing environmental impacts of the landfills it was designed to support.

Sincerely,

Brian Martinson, Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties

Laine Sletta, Brown County
President, Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association