



March 14, 2023

Minnesota House of Representatives
Commerce Finance and Policy Committee

Re: HF1315 – Compostable Labeling Requirements

Dear Chair Stephenson and Members of the Committee,

Eureka Recycling is submitting this letter in support of HF1315: Compostable Labeling Requirements

Eureka Recycling is a Zero Waste non-profit and social enterprise recycler based in Minneapolis. Our mission is to demonstrate that waste is completely preventable. While we hold a clear and bold vision for a world without waste, we use our on-the-ground experience to advocate for tangible, real-world solutions to better manage our resources, reduce waste, support local economies, and build healthy, equitable communities.

We piloted and launched the first commercial composting collection program for restaurants in Minneapolis, and ran a residential pilot project in Saint Paul to explore best practices for residential composting collection. Both projects relied on commercial composting sites in Minnesota and required education of residents about the confusing array of mislabeled products claiming compostability. A strong and effective composting infrastructure across the state is a key component to a zero waste future, and mislabeled products are a threat to that.

Food waste is a significant and problematic portion of our waste stream. In a landfill it generates methane – a greenhouse gas 25 times as potent as CO² – and contributes to the release of dioxins in energy intensive incinerators. Compostable food-service products can make food waste diversion more efficient and successful for residents. However, if those products are not actually compostable and do not completely break down they leave behind microplastics, PFAS, and other problematic toxics in the soil. To fully realize the benefits of composting, the end product needs to be clean, healthy, and usable for food production and erosion control. A composting system cannot work if it is contaminated by mislabeled and greenwashed products.

HF 1315 provides much needed standards for compostable product labeling, which will:

- Reduce operational costs for composters
- Reduce confusion of food establishments who accidentally buy misleading products from manufacturers, distributors and wholesalers.
- Reduce confusion for residents participating in organics recycling programs.
- Support compostable product manufacturers in the State, and elsewhere, who already clearly label products.

Counties and cities across Minnesota are increasingly developing composting facilities and diversion programs to meet our urgent climate change goals. The success of public and private programs and composting operations is dependent on reducing contamination. By setting standards for compostable product labeling, resident and business confusion will be reduced and composting programs in Minnesota can thrive.

We ask for your support of HF1315 and appreciate your consideration of our comments. Please feel free to contact us with questions or for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Hoffman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lynn Hoffman,
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