



March 9, 2021

Representative Zack Stephenson and Members  
Chair of the Commerce Finance and Policy Committee

**RE: HF1165 (Wazlawik) Biodegradable or compostable item labeling requirements modified**

Dear Chair Stephenson and Members,

Mankato Area Zero Waste (MZW) thanks you for the opportunity to share our support for HF1165.

MZW is a grassroots organization focused on reducing waste in all forms. Currently our biggest effort is a partnership with the Minnesota cities of Mankato, North Mankato, and Lake Crystal to provide drop-off sites at no extra charge, for recycling organics from any area household into useable compost. **We have over 900 households voluntarily participating in this initiative.**

HF1165 will amend the State's Plastic Bag Labeling law ([325E.046](#)) to apply to all food or beverage products and packaging. It will restrict companies from greenwashing their products. Only truly compostable products will be allowed to be sold/distributed in the State. Benefits of expanding this bill include:

1. Reduce misleading claims of manufacturers and distributors to restaurants and other food establishments buying take-out containers
2. Reduce resident confusion if an item is compostable
3. Reduce contamination received at source-separated organics compost sites allowing them to produce quality compost.

Without this bill, costs for organics recycling programs will continue to increase for municipalities, resident participants and composters alike. Each group must deal with the additional waste created when misleading labeling impacts purchasing decisions, processing, and sale and use of finished compost.

It is important for this law to be passed this session as many communities have invested in/are expanding/adding organics recycling programs for residents and commercial businesses. Once again, we encourage you to support this bill.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Betty Winkworth ([bjwink46@gmail.com](mailto:bjwink46@gmail.com)); Jane Dow ([janedow47@gmail.com](mailto:janedow47@gmail.com))

Founders of Mankato Area Zero Waste  
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