

# Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

The comments from the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce are attached



September 11, 2023

Commissioner Katrina Kessler  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road N  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

On behalf of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”), a statewide organization that represents more than 6,300 businesses and more than a half million employees throughout the state, we appreciate the opportunity to provide the following comments on the Draft Metropolitan Solid Waste Policy Plan 2022-2024 (“Draft Plan”).

The Chamber fully supports increased efforts to engage businesses and residents to reduce waste and increase Minnesota’s recycling rate, including educational opportunities. Minnesota Waste Wise, an award-winning program of the Minnesota Chamber is a great example of a voluntary approach to waste reduction that diverts waste from landfills and provides an excellent opportunity to educate businesses on stewardship practices.

However, we have general concerns that the implementation of the Draft Plan may lead to increased costs and how any increases will be passed onto businesses in the metropolitan area.

In addition, we question whether required strategies may actually increase environmental impacts; such as through increased truck emissions and as such, whether additional analysis may be needed.

Any strategy that allows increased taxing authority is a specific concern to the Chamber given the potential economic impact on Minnesota businesses without any foreseeable benefit.

Finally, to the extent the Draft Plan’s “required strategies” are mandates that will be enforced, the Chamber believes these obligations and requirements should be subject to the rigor of a rulemaking or the legislative process.

The Chamber appreciates the opportunity to comment on this important document. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Kwilas".

Tony Kwilas  
Director, Environmental Policy  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
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651-292-4668