



December 15, 2023

Megen Kabele  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Kabele,

Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E) is a public entity formed by a Joint Powers Agreement between Ramsey and Washington counties and governed by a joint powers board made up of commissioners from the two counties. Our vision is for vibrant, healthy communities without waste and our mission is “Enhancing public health & the environment by creating value from waste through partnerships”.

R&E exists to manage all municipal solid waste generated in the counties to protect health and the environment and meet the state’s 75% recycling goal by 2030. R&E views the waste stream as a resource stream and works to extract maximum value from discarded materials. As part of this work, R&E sorts all solid waste generated in the counties at the Recycling & Energy Center (R&E Center) facility in Newport, reducing the need for landfilling by up to 90%.

Despite our best upstream comprehensive waste prevention, reuse and recycling programs, and our facility’s efforts to maximize recovery through waste processing to capture additional recyclables and create refuse derived fuel, we still end up with materials that require landfilling. Until such time that new solutions can be found to effectively reduce or recycle our processing residue and non-processible bulky wastes, landfill disposal is required. While our goal remains to minimize landfilling of solid waste resources, more time is needed to explore and pursue additional technologies and strategies necessary to achieve success.

R&E relies on both the Republic Pine Bend Landfill as well as local WM landfills. R&E and the customers in both Ramsey and Washington Counties benefit when competition in disposal options is available. Additionally, the Pine Bend landfill location is closer to Newport, which can reduce road miles driven and generate fewer GHG emissions from trucks.

Accordingly, while R&E remains fully committed to strategies that maximize waste reduction, reuse, recycling and non-landfilling management options for our solid waste resources, we would like to state our support for Republic Service’s landfill expansion at the Pine Bend Landfill.

David Brummel  
Washington County  
R&E Joint Leadership Team

Michael Reed  
Ramsey County  
R&E Joint Leadership Team