

Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act

HF3577 (Rep Jordan) / SF3561 (Sen Morrison)



Problematic and unnecessary packaging is filling our landfills, burning in our incinerators, and trashing our recycling system. This packaging adds unnecessary costs to our communities and pollutes our environment. The Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act holds producers responsible for these impacts and drives them towards much needed changes.

PRODUCERS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING TARGETS:

2032

All packaging must be reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

2033

15% of materials must be **source reduced**

10% of material must transition to a **reuse system**

65% of materials must be **recycled or composted**

All material must have at least **10% recycled content**

CORE COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAM:

Prioritizes Waste Reduction: We cannot recycle and compost our way out of this packaging crisis, we must prioritize reduction. The program requires producers to meet targets for source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, and post-consumer recycled content. These targets are enforced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Drives Packaging Redesign: Packaging producers will be charged based on the amount and type of packaging used. The less packaging a company uses, the less they will pay. There are also financial incentives for companies to reduce unnecessary packaging and use nontoxic, reusable, recyclable and compostable materials.

Creates Equitable & Free Access to Recycling: Recycling a growing financial burden for local governments and individual families. The program will provide free recycling for all Minnesotans, by requiring producers to reimburse local governments for the cost of these programs.

Supports Quality Jobs: The program ensures that priority for service provider contracts is given to Minnesota companies that provide good jobs, strong safety standards, and quality services. Additionally, investments in reuse and recycling infrastructure will create new jobs across our state.

Strengthens the MN Economy: Businesses are struggling to source the metal, paper, plastic, and glass needed to make new packaging and products. Meanwhile, each year Minnesota buries and burns over 1 million tons of recyclables worth an estimated 143 million dollars. By recycling more, we can create a reliable domestic supply of recycled metal, paper, plastic, and glass to make new products. Additionally, the recycled content requirements, provide stability to, traditionally unstable, commodity markets.

A robust program, with strong reduction targets, is an opportunity help support zero waste policies. However, efforts to weaken this bill risks us simply shifting the cost of recycling without ushering in systemic improvements and community benefits.

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