



Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

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Cole W. Miller
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Ashley J. Cornforth
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March 19, 2025

Senator Nick Frentz
3109 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Chris Swedzinski
Representative Patty Acomb
593 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Ramsey County/Washington County/Dem-Con HZI BioEnergy
Anaerobic Digester Energy System Project**

Dear Chair Frentz, Chair Swedzinski and Chair Acomb, and Members of the Committees:

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) supports Ramsey County/Washington County/Dem-Con Anaerobic Digester project. The proposed project will process food waste and organics from Ramsey and Washington counties into renewable natural gas (RNG) through anaerobic digestion. The project will also use pyrolysis to create a marketable biochar which can be used as a soil amendment and sequesters carbon helping to meet the state climate change initiatives.

Specifically, the Dem-Con digester will process up to 50,000 tons of organic waste from Ramsey and Washington counties creating 170,000 MMBtu of RNG per year, 10,000 tons of biochar, and reducing over 10,000 tons per year of CO2 equivalent. This emission reduction from the proposed digester is equivalent to removing 2,155 passenger vehicles from the road each year ([Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator | US EPA](#)).

The Dakota people have long considered their relationship with the earth as a kinship. Following the tradition of planning seven generations ahead, the SMSC intends to protect and preserve the environment for future generations. This project is complementary to the SMSC's new Dakota Prairie Composting Facility and will assist the metro region in reaching the 75% recycling goal by 2030. We support the waste management hierarchy and view the waste stream as a resource stream working to recover maximum value from discarded materials. The proposed project provides the infrastructure necessary to help meet these goals and is a critical step toward developing a sustainable waste management strategy protective of Minnesota's environment and natural resources.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Tribal Operations Administrator Steve Albrecht at steve.albrecht@shakopeedakota.org.

Sincerely,

Cole W. Miller
Chairman