

STEELE COUNTY

Administration

Administration Center
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Renae Fry - County Administrator

March 28, 2025

Representative Lee, Chair
House Capital Investment Committee
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Franson, Chair
House Capital Investment Committee
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Olmsted County Materials Recovery Facility Bonding Request (HF 502)

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Franson, and Committee Members:

On behalf of Steele County, I write to respectfully urge your support for [HF 502](#) which provides funding to Olmsted County to construct a regional materials recovery facility (MRF). There are currently no regional MRFs operating in southeastern Minnesota. A regional MRF will promote innovation and collaboration for the region, augment recycling efforts, and recover additional value from waste. This project will provide needed infrastructure in the region to increase recycling rates, decrease waste going to landfills, and increase capacity and efficiency of the Olmsted County Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEF).

A regional materials recovery facility in southeastern Minnesota would:

- Support population growth and development in the region
- Improve local recycling rates and provide a regional option for processing recyclables
- Assist in meeting state and local recycling and solid waste objectives through economies of scale
- Reduce transportation emissions by sorting and processing the materials locally in the region
- Delay expansion of landfills and the OWEF
- Enhance current solid waste management programs for the lowest impact on the environment
- Provide better waste management options for regional patterns, private haulers, businesses, families, and individuals

Thank you for your consideration of this funding request to improve waste management and resource recovery infrastructure in southeastern Minnesota.

Sincerely,


Renae Fry
County Administrator



200 First Street SW
Rochester, Minnesota 55905
507-284-2511
mayoclinic.org

March 29, 2025

Representative Lee, Chair
House Capital Investment Committee
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Franson, Chair
House Capital Investment Committee
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Olmsted County Materials Recovery Facility Bonding Request (HF 502)

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Franson, and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of Mayo Clinic to express support for the bonding request ([HF 502](#)) to construct a regional materials recovery facility (MRF) in Olmsted County. Currently, there are no MRFs operating in southeastern Minnesota. A regional MRF will provide essential infrastructure to divert waste from the Olmsted County Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEF) and foster innovation and collaboration for the region.

Proper disposal is crucial for environmental protection and community sustainability. Mayo Clinic commends Olmsted County for its innovative approach to waste management. This project will enable us to leverage new and more efficient processes, and we look forward to collaborating with Olmsted County on utilization.

We believe that a regional MRF in Southeastern Minnesota would:

- Enhance recycling and recover additional value from waste by providing convenient access to sorting capacity for recyclable materials
- Assist state and local organizations in meeting their sustainability goals
- Extend the usable life of waste and recycling processing and disposal facilities in Southeastern Minnesota

Mayo Clinic is pleased to support the funding request brought forward by Olmsted County. This project will enhance the long-term livability of our region, benefiting not only our residents but also the visitors who travel to Southeast Minnesota for care. Thank you for considering funding support for this important project.

Sincerely,

Angela Dalenberg
Operations Manager, Environmental Services
dalenberg.angela@mayo.edu

March 31, 2025

Representative Lee
Chair, House Capital Investment Committee
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Franson
Chair, House Capital Investment Committee
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Olmsted County Materials Recovery Facility Bonding Request (HF502)

Chair Lee, Chair Franson, and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages you to support **HF502** which provides funding to Olmsted County to construct a regional materials recovery facility (MRF). Currently, there are no MRFs operating in southeastern Minnesota. A regional MRF will promote innovation and collaboration across the region, augment recycling efforts, and recover additional value from waste. This project benefits both business and residents as it will provide needed infrastructure in the region to effectively divert waste from the Olmsted County Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEF), increase recycling rates, and decrease waste going to landfills

A regional materials recovery facility in southeastern Minnesota would:

- Support population growth and business development in the region
- Provide local businesses and facilities convenient access to sorting capacity for recyclable materials in southeast Minnesota
- Enhance existing solid waste management programs
- Assist in meeting state and local solid waste objectives through economies of scale
- Enhance current solid waste management programs for the lowest impact on the environment
- Reduce costs and emissions by sorting and processing materials locally

We urge your support of the HF502 funding request, as it will not only improve waste management and resource recovery but also drive economic efficiency and environmental sustainability for businesses and communities throughout southeastern Minnesota. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Minnesota's future.

Sincerely,



Ryan Parsons, President
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce