MINNEAPOLIS
REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce
Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
Northeast Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce

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November 4, 2013

Mr. Wayne Gjerde
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Dear Mr. Gjerde,

Below you will find the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce's (MRCC) comments and concerns regarding the MPCA's "Draft program design for a recycling refund program for beverage containers in Minnesota." I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

The MRCC has been a regional leader in encouraging business to adopt sustainable practices in the workplace. We facilitate opportunities for businesses to connect with resources to assist in waste management needs and provided educational programming with industry experts. As one example of our efforts, the MRCC partnered with Minneapolis City Council to pass commercial recycling requirements. These actions show our membership embraces the need to reduce, recycle and reuse waste and are willing to work with stakeholders to find appropriate solutions.

With this said, the MRCC has concerns regarding the current Container Deposit proposal. Specifically, our members are concerned on the focus of this proposal and the resulting financial impact on manufactures, retail businesses and waste haulers. This added "tax" on beverage containers will significantly hurt job creators in Minnesota and its impacts will likely be passed on to consumers. Instead, the MRCC asks that public officials look to finding ways to increase recycling opportunities for all waste streams that are cost-effective to all stakeholders. We support the state's waste management goals and urge decision-makers to work with the business community to find appropriate solutions to achieve them.

Again, thank you for the consideration and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Todd Klingel
President & CEO