

House DFLers Unveil a Plan to Protect the Health of Minnesotans

Legislation authored by Rep. Ami Wazlawik and other House DFL legislators will:

Protect Minnesotans from Toxic Chemicals

- Bans trichloroethylene (TCE), a carcinogenic chemical that increases risks for certain types of cancer and other serious health issues
- Requires facilities with potential air pollutants to undergo more frequent and rigorous testing
- Expands reporting requirements for facilities with potential air pollutants

Improve Enforcement

- Clarifies state agencies' authority to enforce existing laws and permits
- Provides the MPCA with additional investigators and more tools to ensure that businesses are acting responsibly
- Instructs state agencies to share data so they can better work together to protect workers, communities, and the environment

Hold Polluters Accountable

- Creates a pathway for filing criminal charges against polluters
- Increases penalties for those found guilty of certain felonies, including some permit and rule violations
- Offers incentives to encourage people to come forward if facilities are committing violations or putting workers and community members at risk

Increase Community Engagement

- Expands public access to information about environmental hazards
- Provides opportunities for community members to share feedback and ask questions about nonexpiring permits
- Requires community engagement before settlement agreements are reached
- Calls for assessing cumulative impacts to communities when issuing air quality permits

Strengthen Worker Protections

- Requires all training to be accessible for workers and stipulates that information must be available in a language that they understand
- Allows agencies to share knowledge of workplace violations so they are better able to protect workers
- Provides financial relief for impacted workers through unemployment insurance