

Dear Dakota County Legislators,

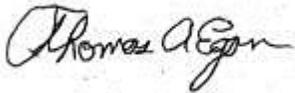
Dakota County continues to be very concerned with the discussions related to the transfer of funds from the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) into the State's General fund without plans for repayment. MLCAT funds are generated by fees on mixed municipal solid waste buried in the Metro area and are intended to provide post-closure care for six eligible metro area landfills. Three of the eligible landfills are located in Dakota County: Burnsville Sanitary Landfill, Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill and The Rosemount Demolition Landfill.

Owners of the MLCAT eligible landfills are required to establish post-closure improvements such as a proper cover, leachate management, methane collection systems etc. and maintain them for 30 years. MLCAT funds are intended to be available thereafter to maintain the systems or repair and replace the systems as needed. The costs associated with care after three decades of closure can be considerable. For instance, the Washington County Landfill closed in 1975, and underwent a cleanup within the last 5 years for \$23M. The Washington County Landfill was 1/10th the size of either the Burnsville and Pine Bend landfills. The potential costs associated with long-term care of these sites could be significantly more. It is not possible to predict the costs associated with the three Dakota County landfills, but it should be assumed to be significant.

Fees collected at the landfills for the MLCAT fund are paid in anticipation of being available to cure problems in the future. They are not generated to support the State's general fund or other purposes. Roughly \$800,000 per year is generated by these fees. The fees are only generated while the landfills are in operation. If one assumes the landfills are closed in 10 years, the fund will generate only another \$8 million. This is not the first time transfers have been proposed from the MLCAT Account. In 2004, \$9.9M was transferred from the account into the General Fund. In 2005, an additional \$4M was transferred out of the fund. Now in 2015, an additional transfer of \$8.1M is being discussed. We believe that all funds which have been paid in to the MLCAT should be available for the intended purpose.

Dakota County urges you to protect the long-term future of the County by resisting the transfer of funds out of MLCAT. If the funds are transferred, they should be replenished in the future along with the previously transferred funds.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Egan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'E'.

Thomas A. Egan, Chair
Dakota County Board of Commissioners