



RE: Please put Minnesota on a new energy trajectory. Make history with a strong HF 2208.

To: Members of the House of Representatives

April 23, 2019

Dear Representative,

In 2007, nobody really knew if it was possible. But we knew we had to try.

Today, Minnesota has reached the renewable energy goals set in the 2007 Next Generation Energy Act seven years early. Reaching 25% renewable energy has shown not only that achieving our clean energy future is possible, it is preferable, and it is powerful:

- renewable energy is cheaper than fossil fuels,
- it is reliable now,
- and it is local – our investments to power Minnesota will stay in Minnesota and create jobs.

This is why Xcel Energy announced in December of 2018 that its electricity production would be 100% carbon free by 2050. Renewable energy makes sense.

Now the challenges of a changing climate bring increased urgency to our transition.

We need to act strategically.

Minnesota needs to put in place the policies and resources that will

- 1) Create ever more clean electricity by capturing power from the wind and the sun.
- 2) Transition our systems (like transportation and heating) off of fossil fuels and onto clean electricity.

We need to act quickly.

The world's scientists tell us that in order to avoid catastrophic consequences, we need to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. That goal assumes a 50% reduction by 2030.

Minnesota is ready to tackle this challenge. Our technology, our industry and our people are all poised to lead this transition, reap its rewards, and forge a new trajectory for Minnesota's health, economy, and future.

We need to act equitably.

Our transition must take care of workers whose jobs may be impacted by the change in technology. It must ensure that Minnesota families gain economically and enjoy the benefits of efficiency and cleaner air without having to bear excessive costs during the transition. It must provide a safe and healthy future for Minnesotans of every race, gender, income, and age in every part of the state.

The energy provisions in HF 2208 help equitably move us to the clean energy future we need.

HF 2208 takes Minnesota to 100% carbon free electricity production in a way that has brought together a broad coalition, including labor, businesses, faith communities, health professionals, environmental organizations, students and neighbors like you and me.

For a more complete synopsis, consult the House Research Summary, but here are some of the reasons we enthusiastically support this bill:

- **It commits us to what we know we need: a 100% carbon free future.**
- **It creates a preference for local hiring** by requiring the Public Utilities Commission to consider local job impacts and give preference to proposals that maximize the creation of jobs for local workers.
- **It invests in electric vehicle infrastructure across Minnesota.**
- **It helps schools with efficiency and solar to reduce energy costs and put money in classrooms.**
- **It improves access to solar energy for lower-income Minnesotans.**
- **It doubles funding for low-income home improvements and includes renters.**
- **It supports transition communities** by providing new tools to help those communities plan for a strong and successful shift that will benefit everyone and leave no one behind.
- **It plans for restoring prairies on state-owned lands.**

This is not a hard decision.

A vote for a clean and equitable energy future is a vote for every person in Minnesota – for their health, for their job prospects, for the past Minnesota they love and the future they look forward to.

Please support the integrity of HF 2208 by keeping it strong, opposing attempts to weaken the bill, and once again, making history for Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Steve Morse
Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Alliance for Sustainability
Anoka Area Climate Action *
Audubon Minnesota
Austin Coalition for Environmental Sustainability
Center for Biological Diversity
Citizens Climate Lobby – Minnesota
Clean Water Action – Minnesota
Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy
Cooperative Energy Futures *
Community Power *
CURE (Clean Up the River Environment)
Environment Minnesota
Environmental Working Group
Eureka Recycling
Friends of the MN Scientific & Natural Areas
Friends of the Mississippi River
Growth and Justice *

Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate *
Humming for Bees *
iMatter *
Institute for Local Self Reliance
Izaak Walton League – Minnesota Division, and
Cass County, McCabe and MN Valley Chapters
Land Stewardship Project
League of Women Voters – Minnesota
Lutheran Advocacy – Minnesota
Mankato Area Environmentalists
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
Minnesota Native Plant Society
Minnesota Ornithologists Union
Minnesota Well Owners Organization *
MN350
Move Minnesota
NW · Northeast · Southeast · West Metro Climate Action *
Pesticide Action Network
Pollinator Friendly Alliance
Renewing the Countryside
Sierra Club – North Star Chapter
Wilderness in the City
Women’s Congress for Future Generations
Winona Climate Action Network*

**denotes not an MEP member*