



60 S. 6th Street, Suite 2800, Minneapolis, MN 55402

Rep. Jamie Long (61B, DFL)
517 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 18, 2021

Dear Chair Long and members of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

M-RETS writes regarding H.F. 239. M-RETS is a mission-driven environmental attribute tracking platform providing the data that is leading the drive toward economy-wide decarbonization. The M-RETS Renewable Energy Certificate (“REC”) and Renewable Thermal Certificate (“RTC”) registries provide key data that serve new and existing voluntary and compliance markets across North America.

M-RETS facilitates RTC markets by issuing a unique, traceable digital certificate for every Dekatherm of verified renewable energy recorded on the platform. M-RETS defers to each state or province to determine what qualifies for their specific programs, however, renewable natural gas (“RNG”), renewable hydrogen, solar thermal, and geothermal are some of the current eligible generation technologies. Users retire RTCs to comply with state mandates or to fulfill their voluntary commitments, protecting against double counting.

M-RETS supports the important regulatory changes contained in H.F. 239 that will enable the growth of renewable thermal resources, including renewable hydrogen and ammonia, and RNG across Minnesota. This bill will establish Minnesota as a leader in utilizing market-based solutions to drive thermal decarbonization. H.F. 239 recognizes the importance of tracking using systems like M-RETS while establishing important clarity for regulators, RNG generators, and consumers.

H.F. 239 provides a boost to rural communities on top of establishing Minnesota as a national leader. RNG can reduce the carbon intensity of heating homes and businesses and provide cleaner air and water to Minnesota communities all while utilizing an existing waste resource.¹ After passing a similar law in Oregon, the Oregon Public Utilities Commission approved the M-RETS system to track a similar voluntary standard.² M-RETS is in talks with other states as they look to develop other market-based solutions.

Sincerely,

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¹ M.J. Bradely & Assoc., LLC., Renewable Natural Gas: Potential Supply and Benefits, Renewable Natural Gas Issue Brief, Part III of IV, July 2019, <https://www.mjbradley.com/sites/default/files/RNGSupplyandBenefits07152019.pdf> [Accessed March 15, 2020].

² E. Voegel, “Oregon PUC adopts rules for RNG program,” July 17, 2020, BioMass Magazine, <http://biomassmagazine.com/articles/17217/oregon-puc-adopts-rules-for-rng-program> [Accessed March 15, 2020].