



Fresh Energy

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March 14, 2022

The Honorable Jamie Long  
Chair, Minnesota House Climate and Energy Policy and Finance Committee  
517 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Long,

Fresh Energy is a thirty-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable, carbon-neutral economies, and we appreciate the opportunity to offer our support for Representative Vang's bill House File 2200.

The scope and scale of climate change requires action be taken at all levels: by national, state, and local governments, as well as by individuals. Cities across Minnesota are already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate, and they are eager to do their part to mitigate their own impacts.

Residents, local elected officials, and city staff also recognize the many co-benefits that climate action can offer. These added benefits—in addition to reduced greenhouse gas emissions—can include better air quality; energy efficiency that slashes cities' operating costs; weatherization improvements that reduce monthly utility costs for residents and improves resilience to extreme weather; new job pathways and opportunities; improved tree canopy; and more. However, the ambition of local entities does not always match the funding needed to take advantage of the benefits of climate action; the need for additional technical expertise, staff capacity, or capital investments can serve as roadblocks for local governments to make the improvements they aim for.

HF2200 will provide impactful support for local governments to take climate action that is tailored to the unique priorities of a given community. Grants of \$50,000, with matching requirements depending on the size of the city, will elevate the ability of cities throughout Minnesota who are eager and ready to reduce their climate impacts and help their community adapt to a changing world.

Sincerely,

Anna Johnson  
Senior Associate, Public Affairs