



**CONSERVATION  
MINNESOTA**

February 11, 2021

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

Conservation Minnesota is proud to share our continued support for Representative Stephenson's HF10, or Clean Energy First. Several underlying themes within Clean Energy First have been circulating in various bills at the Minnesota Legislature for years, and we are glad to support Rep. Stephenson's work continuing to put these important proposals forward.

One basic premise in the bill is that as coal plants and other electric generation plants consider substantial repairs, replacement or retirement, the electric utilities should first consider replacing the fossil fuel generators with sources of clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Not only does electricity generated by wind and solar emit zero climate pollution when generating electricity, but the costs of wind and solar generation continue to decrease to the point where often the most economical choice is for utilities to make huge new investments in cleaner and cheaper wind and solar technologies.

We commend Rep. Stephenson for strengthening the preference for clean energy resources when deliberating future generating plans at the Public Utilities Commission. The bill does allow utilities to use new nonrenewable energy facilities in their future plans, but it requires a heightened explanation—on the record—of why renewable energy, alone or in combination with other clean energy resources, is not in the public interest. This provision will help advocates and utilities alike add important information (on the record) to help the long-term planning process.

Finally, we support Rep. Stephenson including support for local workers and local jobs. Adding more information to resource plans about local job impacts will help illuminate the impacts of the clean energy transformation on Minnesota workers and communities. At Conservation Minnesota we strongly believe that the benefits, and the costs, of the clean energy revolution should be part of the long-term planning process.

Thanks for allowing me to share our support for Clean Energy First.

Sincerely,  
Nels Paulsen  
Policy Director