

Written Testimony of John Krenn

To the Chair and Committee Members of the House Climate and Energy Committee:

I am a Minnesota resident active in the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The Legislature must act to move the 100% Carbon-Free Energy bill forward. The need to deal with climate change has taken a back seat to Covid-19 in recent months due to Covid's direct impact on so many aspects of our daily lives. But the unprecedented severity of the West Coast fires and the highly unusual 20-plus hurricanes in the Caribbean are stark reminders that our continued wide-scale use of fossil fuels is rapidly changing our climate. All of the destruction is costing hundreds of billions of dollars of harm each year.

In addition to avoiding monetary losses, there is a moral imperative for us to stop climate change. Much of the harm of climate change is being done to those in the lowest economic rungs of society, both here and abroad. We must act now to limit these inequitable harms by stopping the burning of fossil fuels.

It is important to understand that the extra carbon we are adding to the atmosphere does not "evaporate" or otherwise go away. We must halt the burning of fossil fuels now just to stay where we are at and avoid a much worse situation.

Certainly there is a cost to the switchover, but the wasteful damage caused by unchecked climate change will cost much more as the harm will only increase in severity. Moreover, the switchover has already started and has generated thousands of good-paying jobs. We must accelerate this process.

Minnesota needs to do its part in stopping climate change by passing the 100% Carbon-Free Energy bill ASAP.

I swear this testimony to be true and accurate.

Signed this 20th day of January 2021,

John Krenn