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March 10, 2023

Sent Via Email to rep.rick.hansen@house.mn.gov

Dear Representative Hansen,

The Health Care for All Minnesota Board of Directors would like to formally support HF 637 on the modified requirement to analyze and consider cumulative pollution before issuing air quality permits, identify areas of environmental justice before permitting, and require demographic analysis. This bill will have a hearing in the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee which you chair on Tuesday, March 14th.

We are choosing to support this bill, as air quality is an important factor in a person's health and well-being, and thus feel this bill will help in ensuring health for all Minnesotans, no matter their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or where they live. Air quality is directly connected to the social determinants of health and it should be prioritized for those communities who have been overlooked in the past.

HF 637 will open the door to creating healthy environments for more Minnesotans, where they can hopefully thrive. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at rose.roachLCSP@outlook.com.

Respectfully,

Rose Roach
Board Chair
Health Care for All Minnesota



Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate

March 13, 2023

Chair Hansen and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee

RE: Support for the Frontline Communities Protection Act, HF 637

Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate (HPHC), a multidisciplinary network of over 500 Minnesota health professionals working to protect and improve human health by promoting climate health, supports HF 637, the Frontline Communities Protection Act. This bill takes an important step in dismantling existing environmental racism, which has resulted in the disproportionate siting of highways and polluting industries in neighborhoods and communities with higher proportions of low-income and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).

Minnesota communities with concentrated poverty and higher proportions of BIPOC are burdened by higher levels of pollution from traffic and industrial sources. Compared with statewide averages, these same communities experience gaps in unemployment, income, wealth, arrest and incarceration rates, homeownership, educational achievement, housing quality, and healthy food access. Underlying socioeconomic disparities and higher pollution exposure create health disparities, including shorter lifespan, higher rates of infant and maternal mortality, and higher incidence of heart disease, cancer, asthma and diabetes. Black and American Indian infants are twice as likely to die before their first birthday as White infants.

Affected communities include urban, suburban, rural and tribal areas. Here are a few examples of Minnesota communities which could be positively impacted by this bill:

- Minneapolis Phillips neighborhood, with 60% people of color, experiences high levels of air pollution from traffic, and is home to 209 EPA hazardous chemical reporting facilities, a Superfund site that resulted from a shuttered pesticide plant that had polluted the soil and groundwater with toxic levels of arsenic, as well as Bituminous Roadways Asphalt Plant and the Smith Foundry, which produces smoke, metal dust, and fly ash.
- North Minneapolis, with 54% people of color, experiences high levels of air pollution from traffic and is home to 279 EPA hazardous chemical reporting facilities, a shuttered metals recycling facility, GAF roofing, and the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC), a municipal waste incinerator that emits nitrogen oxides, lead, mercury, particulate matter, and dioxins.
- Prairie Island Indian Community, home to the Mdewakanton Band of Eastern Dakota, experiences chronic flooding of reservation lands due to a lock and dam system installed in 1936 on the Mississippi River. In addition, Xcel Energy was permitted to store 39 casks of highly radioactive waste from the Prairie Island nuclear plant on reservation lands, with some homes located 600 yards from the nuclear waste storage.

HF 637 would protect these and other communities from being burdened by additional pollution sources. It is time to rectify past harms to communities which have been on the frontline of transportation and industrial systems that place their health and economic well-being at risk. This bill will improve the health and quality of life in majority BIPOC and low-income communities and help build thriving and resilient communities which are better able to adapt to changing climate conditions. Thank you for hearing this important bill.

Kathleen Schuler, MPH

Policy Director Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate keschuler47@gmail.com

Citation: Climate Justice and Public Health in Minnesota: Equitable Solutions to the Climate Crisis, July 2022.
<https://hpforhc.org/our-work/>

March 13, 2023
Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hansen and the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I would like to thank Chair Hansen and the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Frontline Communities Protection Act, or H.F. 637.

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) is a science advocacy organization with more than 500,000 supporters nationwide, including over 7,000 in Minnesota. We have over 50 years of experience putting science into action to build a healthier planet, a more equitable society, and a safer world. **UCS is grateful for the leadership of Rep. Fue Lee on environmental justice and for introducing this bill in support of the tireless and strategic work of communities to implement regulations to reduce inequitable and cumulative impacts of pollution; we are in full support of H.F. 637.** We ask this Committee to advance this bill, which will help improve access to a healthy environment for all Minnesota communities.

H.F. 637 will ensure environmental permitting processes increase engagement with impacted communities and protect environmental justice communities from system-perpetuated inequities. By defining environmental justice and environmental justice areas, H.F. 637 would ensure enhanced public participation and review to address inequities. Furthermore, it would provide tools for environmental justice communities to shape and benefit from environmental, energy, climate, and public health laws and policies. This bill would ensure both the process and the outcomes of permitting in Minnesota are more health protective, just, and equitable.

UCS supports strong criteria to define environmental justice populations, ensuring that permitting processes include consideration of cumulative environmental and public health stressors. This bill lays out the long overdue groundwork to reduce the cumulative pollution burden in environmental justice communities. This policy would help combat the as-yet intractable reality that overburdened and under-resourced populations are disproportionately exposed and impacted by environmental contaminants and lack the environmental and energy benefits afforded to whiter and wealthier communities.

In order to reduce and eliminate environmental injustices, environmental health policy must require consideration of the proposed pollution impacts **and** the existing social and environmental stressors that communities experience. Currently, environmental justice guidelines often inform but do not drive decision-making. This allows for the perpetuation of a system that concentrates polluting industries and facilities in Minnesota's most

overburdened and under-resourced communities. Providing avenues for increased engagement with environmental communities and more rigorous analysis of the cumulative impacts will help ensure equity and environmental justice in decision-making. The reforms in H.F. 637 are a key tool in addressing the disparities in pollution and health burdens across Minnesota.

The science is clear—the impacts of pollution have significant racial and economic disparities. American history is replete with examples of Black, Indigenous, Latino, low-income, and other historically marginalized communities bearing the brunt of environmental hazards from their proximity to toxic waste sites, landfills, highways, industrial facilities, and fossil fuel extraction sites compared with white or more affluent communities.¹ And, the science goes further. Scientists use air pollution models that estimate what pollution sources can contribute to air pollution levels near people, and have found that nearly all air pollution sources in the U.S. disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous and people of color.² Furthermore, the science shows that exposure to these environmental hazards carries significant and life-long health burdens, such as an increased risk of heart disease, asthma attacks, and premature death.³ Data also show that in more historically segregated cities, such as the Twin Cities, pollution exposure disparities are more extreme than in less segregated cities.⁴ This bill is important to Minnesota.

Current environmental regulations generally address pollutants and pollutant sources one at a time. This system doesn't reflect peoples' lived experience. Science shows over and over again that people are exposed to more than one chemical at a time, from more than one pathway at a time (e.g. inhalation and ingestion), and that multiple chemical exposures vs. single chemical exposures have different and sometimes more adverse impacts. There is also science that suggests that impacts from pollution exposures can be more adverse for people who experience social adversity.⁵

Pollution sources tend to be concentrated in certain locations, generally in close proximity to BIPOC and low-income communities, but environmental regulations generally assess facilities as if they were in isolation. The Union of Concerned Scientists recently analyzed the location of sterilization facilities that emit ethylene oxide.⁶ In the first analysis by EPA, there was an investigation of individual facilities. Minnesota was not in the list of 23 highest emitting facilities. However, when you look at this question from a cumulative impact perspective and consider more than one source of pollution at a time, Minnesota was found to

¹ <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/72837516.pdf>;

<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304297>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/28/climate/air-pollution-minorities.html>

³ <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/health-and-environmental-effects-particulate-matter-pm>

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1392233/>

⁵ <https://blog.ucsusa.org/kellickson/when-it-comes-to-the-cumulative-impacts-of-pollution-the-science-is-in/>

⁶ <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/invisible-threat-inequitable-impact#:~:text=Ethylene%20oxide%2C%20a%20colorless%20gas.unrecognized%20threat%20to%20nearby%20communities>

have a hotspot of ethylene oxide emitting facilities. This bill would ensure that facilities aren't considered in isolation resulting in under-protective environmental decision-making.

Communities face disproportionate exposures to multiple environmental pollutants from multiple sources, as well as unequal health and safety risks from climate change. At the same time, these communities disproportionately lack access to the employment opportunities and economic benefits from polluting industries.⁷ BIPOC and low-income communities are on the frontlines of our public health, safety, and environmental crises. This is the result of years of exclusionary practices in science, policymaking, housing, health care, and the economy. The need for interventions to protect environmental justice communities becomes clear given the data on air pollution, health and economic outcomes, climate impacts, and the locations of polluting facilities and hazardous waste sites.

The State of Minnesota is no exception. Recent data from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) found that poor air quality played a role in 10 percent of all deaths in the Twin Cities metro area, as well as nearly 500 hospitalizations and emergency room visits.⁸ Air pollution was also attributable to 8 percent of all fatalities in Duluth and St. Cloud and 10 percent of all deaths in Rochester. In all the Minnesota cities analyzed for the study, communities with higher percentages of low-income residents, uninsured residents, residents with a disability, and BIPOC residents faced the highest estimated rates of death and disease related to air pollution. The same report found that *“communities facing discrimination, barriers to access and structural racism generally had the highest estimated rates of air pollution-related death and disease...For example, ZIP codes with the largest percentage of residents of color had more than five times the rate of asthma emergency room visits related to air pollution compared to areas with more white residents.”*⁹

Furthermore, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency analyzes air pollutants that are associated with adverse health effects. The tool, called MNRISKs, provides information related to multiple pollutants at a time and develops air scores that can be used to compare geographies and sources around the state. These results suggest that environmental justice areas in Minnesota have air scores that are over two times higher than areas that are not currently designated as environmental justice areas¹⁰.

According to the MPCA's biennial report, *The Air We Breathe: The State of Minnesota's Air Quality, 2021*, local pollution impacts of the most polluted areas have not decreased as much as average air pollution. The report states, *“in Minnesota, discriminatory housing policies, the placement of freeways in Black neighborhoods and zoning and permitting decisions led to people of color being concentrated together with pollution sources. The result is air pollution that threatens higher health risks in areas where Black, Indigenous, people of color, and low-income residents live. The social, economic, and health inequities these groups face make them more vulnerable to the health effects of air pollution, further intensifying the impacts.*

⁷ <https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2018-10-01/minority-communities-near-industrial-sites-get-pollution-not-jobs>

⁸ <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/life-and-breath-report>

⁹ <https://www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2022/air030822.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/Iraq-1sy23.pdf>

Air pollution and health are closely linked, and even low levels of air pollution can contribute to serious illnesses and early death.”¹¹

Since health and safety are enjoyed unequally across racial and economic lines, policies focused on the health and safety of communities should also focus on addressing inequities. Science has too often ignored or exacerbated racial inequities and must now be used to right those wrongs. Requiring community engagement, quantifying the full impacts of a proposed facility, and considering environmental and public health stressors before issuing permits employs science and data to directly address and reduce environmental injustice. Data-driven policies that identify environmental justice communities and include the full context of disproportionate, compounded burdens they face in decision-making are key to addressing environmental racism. H.F. 637 is a major step forward in the pursuit of environmental justice for Minnesotans.

The Frontline Communities Protection Act would strengthen the environmental permitting process in communities that have been historically overburdened by pollution and under resourced and ensure that the process does not exacerbate disproportionate harm. This bill would help to center environmental justice and racial equity in the decision making for environmental permitting. This bill’s requirements for meaningful public input and the use of cumulative impact data in permitting decisions is a critical step towards ensuring that all residents of Minnesota, regardless of their zip code and color of their skin, have the right to health, clean air, and safe communities. UCS asks this Committee to move H.F. 637 forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Kristie Ellickson, PhD
Kendall Fellow
Center for Science and Democracy
Union of Concerned Scientists
KEllickson@ucsusa.org

¹¹ <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/I-94minneapolis-stpaul/background.html>



“To promote a zero-waste society that advocates for reducing waste, sustainably reusing resources and less landfill use.”

March 13, 2023

RE: H.F. 637 (Lee)

Dear Chair Hansen and Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee Members:

The Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (“MRRA”), supports efforts to advance environmental justice and is committed to working together to improve H.F. 637, but MRRA has concerns about H.F. 637 as currently written:

- S.F. 637 presents significant permitting challenges on a majority of potential submissions.
- S.F. 637 adds significant time and cost to the permit application and issuance process potentially adding 1-2 years to the permitting process and an estimated \$100,000-\$200,000 per permit action.
- S.F. 637 adds permit conditions (e.g., restrictions on operations and requirements for air pollution controls) that cap emissions at currently permitted levels for existing facilities, and at 0 emissions for new permittees.
- S.F. 637 advocates that every proposed project permit application needs to have some type of emissions off-set to avoid a cumulative analysis, but with the over-generalized language of the triggers, it adds significant uncertainty to the permitting process.

The MRRA represents eight resource recovery facilities that process approximately one million tons of waste per year from 31 of Minnesota’s 87 counties. These facilities keep waste out of landfills, protecting public health, the environment and the climate from long-term risks and liabilities such as groundwater pollution, soil contamination and greenhouse gas emissions. We work to move Minnesota towards zero landfilling and leave a legacy of a better Minnesota for future generations.

Many of our facilities are built in the heart of some of the most successful destination locations in Minnesota. Our state-of-the-art air emission controls ensure a safe and clean place for people to visit, vacation, work and live. Perham, Alexandria, Fosston, Red Wing, Rochester, and Mankato are envied by neighboring communities for the benefits created by our facilities. Managing waste locally at these facilities reduces transport costs and harmful emissions and greenhouse gases that would otherwise be caused by trucking waste to remote landfills. We think globally and act locally.

involvement in developing environmental justice bills to ensure that they are compatible with our shared environmental goals. In the short-term, our facilities are more expensive to operate than the nearest landfills; however, long term they are less costly due to lower environmental risks.

- Currently, Minnesota's taxpayers have nearly \$1 billion in landfill clean-up costs. In accordance with MPCA guidelines our member counties choose resource recovery over landfilling as it ranks higher on the waste management hierarchy and creates less risk to the public's health and pollution risk to the environment.
- MRRA members fully embrace the scientifically proven waste management hierarchy. We are currently advancing multiple regional programs of higher priority than resource recovery, which include waste reduction, waste re-use, recycling, and composting; these initiatives work towards zero landfilling. If resource recovery is weakened in integrated programs, Minnesota will move backwards, not forwards in waste management.
- These waste management strategies are recommended by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and required by Minnesota state law. Global leaders in environmental solid waste management which include countries such as Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands have the same perspective.

We thank you for your work to help Minnesota protect our climate by protecting Minnesota's investments in waste-to-energy. On behalf of MRRA, I ask that you consider the environmental and climate benefits of resource recovery. I respectfully request S.F. 637 (Lee) be revised to prevent further cost burdens on already compliant waste -to-energy facilities. We want to be part of the Environmental Justice conversation and consideration. The MRRA is happy to provide additional information, resources, or discussion on this important topic. You can reach me at 218-770-2810 or cmconn@co.ottertail.mn.us.



Chris McConn
MRRA, Board Chair



209 Page Street West | Saint Paul, MN 55107
(651) 293-1708
www.WSCO.org

TO: the Committee Chair and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
FROM: West Side Community Organization staff, Board members, and members
RE: HF637 (Lee) Requirement modified to analyze and consider cumulative pollution before issuing air quality permit, environmental justice areas identification provided, environmental permitting and review demographic analysis required, and technical corrections made.

We at the West Side Community Organization have been working to make sure all West Siders' voices are heard on the topic of Health and Environmental Justice (HEJ). Our HEJ team is concerned about the air pollution toll that air traffic, road traffic, and industry take on our neighborhood. Considering that the West Side is a historically overburdened neighborhood, and has one of the only residential neighborhoods directly next to a heavy industrial area, it is imperative that we work to address the negative impact to our health that air pollution has.

Pollution does not follow human-imposed rules and borders, and the health effects of pollution are complex. Analyzing and considering cumulative pollution before issuing air quality permits is critical.

Thank you for your time.

Ellie Leonardsmith
Health & Environmental Justice Organizer

Evan Mathiason
WSCO Board Member

Jen Crea
Signe Hushagen
WSCO HEJ members

March 14, 2023



Minnesota House
Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee

Re: HF637 – Frontline Communities Protection Act

Dear Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

Eureka Recycling is submitting this letter in support of HF637, the Frontline Communities Protection Act

As a non-profit, social enterprise, recycler, we use our on-the-ground experience to advocate for tangible, real-world solutions to better manage our resources, reduce waste, support local economies, and build healthy, equitable communities. A key step toward building healthier, more equitable communities is the Frontline Communities Protection Act.

The burden of air pollution is not evenly shared. Minnesota has a concentration of pollution in certain communities, identified as Environmental Justice Areas. As a result, overburdened and under resourced communities are more vulnerable to adverse health impacts such as asthma and cardiovascular disease. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, data shows disparities in heart and lung disease by age, income, race/ethnicity and geography.

The current permitting process at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) only evaluates a proposed permit on its own. The MPCA does not consider already existing sources of pollution like highways, industries and others. As a result, polluting facilities and other sources of pollution accumulate in EJ Areas. The Frontline Communities Protection Act will create more transparency and accountability in the regulatory process, ensure permits consider the cumulative impacts of pollutants, and support community agency when it comes to considering new facilities for a community.

The impacts of pollution have been disproportionately forced on overburdened communities for decades, leading to numerous environmental, health, economic, and social disparities. This issue is systemic, and we must address it with systemic change. There are environmental justice communities all across the state. No overburdened community should continue having pollution forced upon them.

We ask for your support of HF637 and appreciate your consideration of our comments. Please feel free to contact us with questions or for further information.

Sincerely,



Lynn Hoffman,
Co-President of Eureka Recycling
(612) 455-9110
lynnh@eurekarecycling.org
eurekarecycling.org

About Eureka Recycling: We are a non-profit, social enterprise, recycler based in Minneapolis. Our mission is to demonstrate that waste is completely preventable. We employ 130 people with living-wage jobs who collect, sort, and market 110,000 tons of residential recycling every year. Our union drivers pick up recycling from more than 130,000 households in St Paul and surrounding communities. Our team sorts these recyclables into 15 different commodities that feed into the supply chain and support growth of our regional economy. About 80% of our feedstock stays in Minnesota and 90% in the greater Midwest, where it is made into new products.

Representative Strohmeier,

I am urging the House of Representatives to pass HF637 on cumulative pollution.

The poorest people in Minneapolis are the ones who live in polluted neighborhoods with high traffic and high levels of pollutants in the air. Passing HF 637 will make it a requirement to analyze and consider cumulative pollution before issuing air quality permits. The results from passage of this bill will lead to better health for the most vulnerable and for all of us.

Thank you for being part of this work.

-Lois Hamilton

4300 West River Parkway #312

Minneapolis, MN 55406

612-455-9342

Dear Rep Strohmeier,

I am writing in support of HF 637 regarding accumulative pollution. This bill makes total sense that all the pollution in an area needs to be considered as a total package. I am concerned in particular about the East Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. They already have more pollution than most of the neighborhoods of our city. We need a law that requires this to be considered when evaluating future plans. Please support this bill.

Thank you.

Diane Greve
Becketwood Cooperative
4300 W River Pkwy, Apt 469
Minneapolis, MN 55406



March 13, 2023

Representative Rick Hansen
Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
RE: Support for the Frontline Community Protection Act (HF 637)

Dear Chair Hansen and Committee Members,

CURE thanks the committee for this opportunity to offer our support for H.F. 637, or the Frontline Community Protection Act. As a community-based organization dedicated to uplifting rural voices and strengthening rural communities, we are proud to join the coalition of organizations and community members from across the state who believe that H.F. 637 offers a first step towards addressing the heavy burden of pollution borne by frontline communities. CURE respectfully requests that the Committee support this important piece of environmental justice legislation.

Every person, no matter where they live has a right to clean air, drinkable water, and an environment that allows them to prosper, but too many communities in the state are denied this right. Although “environmental justice” may not be a term that is used frequently in rural Minnesota, regardless of the terminology, we know that the disproportionate environmental impact of pollution is a dangerous phenomenon throughout the state, including on our rural low-income, Indigenous and tribal communities, and communities of color.

For instance, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe’s Department of Resource Management estimates that groundwater under more than 325 acres of their land remains contaminated due to the toxic legacy of polluting paper mills in the region.¹ Safe drinking water across the state—and especially in our struggling small cities, towns, and rural areas—is at risk due to excessive nitrate pollution and deteriorating water infrastructure. And recent research shows that while particulate matter pollution in the air tends to be greater in big cities—with unconscionable deadly effects—the toxicity of that pollution may be just as high if not higher in Midwestern rural places, especially during the summer growing season, posing an especial threat to farmworkers.² Meanwhile, longstanding health-care challenges in non-metro communities means that our most vulnerable residents cannot access the healthcare they need when they experience pollution-related illnesses.

These are just a few examples of the larger, persistent trends we see in all corners of this state and across the country, caused by the intersection between pollution and political and economic power. And while we are a rurally based organization, CURE stands in solidarity with our fellow

¹ <https://nativenewsonline.net/environment/polluted-lands-persist-on-leech-lake-indian-reservation>

² <https://blogs.illinois.edu/view/6367/13739985>

Minnesotans living in urban neighborhoods like North Minneapolis and East Phillips who are plagued with the worst air quality in the state and are fighting against the polluting facilities harming their families and communities. If we ever hope to ensure everyone's right to a healthy environment, rural and urban Minnesotans must stand together to address these power imbalances and regulatory lapses that allow polluting facilities to concentrate in certain frontline and fence-line communities.

In spite of what some opponents of this bill may argue, the Frontline Community Protection Act will not stop development in our rural places or cities that brings real value to the people that live and work there. But it will ensure that the terms of that development in our most burdened communities are not dictated solely by the economic prerogatives of polluting industry. And it will give these communities a greater say in where and when that development happens and at whose expense or benefit.

CURE deeply appreciates the opportunity to express our support for the Frontline Community Protection Act and thanks the Committee for its consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Maggie Schuppert
Campaigns Director
Clean Up the River Environment (CURE)
117 S 1st Street
Montevideo, MN 56265
(320) 269-2984
info@cureriver.org

To: Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
Chair: Rep. Rick Hansen

I am privileged to live in District 63A. If I were poor I could not live here and enjoy this quality of life with very little pollution.

I think every person has the right to have clean air, water, and soil. No one should have to live with extreme noise or light pollution. Heavy traffic should not be a danger to neighborhood children.

The residents of the East Phillips Neighborhood, including the Little Earth community, will be exposed to even more pollution and traffic if the City of Minneapolis moves forward with their plans to develop the Roof Depot site.

Please pass HF637 making it a requirement to analyze and consider cumulative pollution before issuing an air quality permit. Environmental justice areas need to be identified. Environmental permitting and demographic analysis should be required and technical corrections are needed.

Passage of this bill is critical to address racial injustice. This will improve life for all of us.

Sincerely,
Candace Barrick
Becketwood Cooperative
4300 West River Parkway South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406
barrickc6@gmail.com



4407 E Lake St, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Testimony presented before the Minnesota House of Representatives Committee on Environment and Natural Resources on 3/13/2023

Regarding: HF 637 Testimony in support of the Frontline Communities Protection Act.

Thank you Chair Hansen, Vice-Chair Jordan and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to provide this testimony today.

I am writing in support of HF 637, the Frontline Communities Protection Act. Minnesota, and the United States as a whole, has a history that puts its most vulnerable communities in the most polluted areas of any given city. This is due to a long history of policies that make frontline communities such as Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+, disabled, and low income people more likely to live in areas with the most industrial pollution.

This isn't a metro only issue. In Greater Minnesota frontline communities exist in places like St Cloud, Rochester, and Mankato. People in these communities are more likely to have physical ailments linked to pollution. 46% of low income communities have air-pollution related risks above health guidelines. For BIPOC communities that number climbs to 91%. In the metro, people in areas like East Phillips and North Minneapolis are more likely to acquire asthma and heart disease throughout their life. In many of these cases these people were not born with any lung or heart problems.

Despite the imbalances caused by pollution, it is the areas with the greatest burden from industrial pollution that are the most often home to the most harmful new industrial projects. The Frontline Communities Protections Act would make analysis around these projects more complete. The pollution caused by one project is not the whole picture. To truly know the

impact of any project you have to look at the full scope of pollution in a given area. The Frontline Communities Protections Act will give MPCA the ability to view the full scope of how pollution affects Minnesota Communities and allow the State of Minnesota to reverse some of the disproportionate damage done to the citizens most likely to see the effects of pollution.

It is time Minnesota protects its most at risk communities. I encourage the Committee to vote yes on the Frontline Communities Protection Act.

Thank you for your time.

Tee McClenty, Executive Director, MN350 Action

Noelle Cirisan, Political Manager, MN350 Action

Eva Garcia, Political Organizer, MN350 Action