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Fresh Energy Testimony: Support for House File 10, the Clean Energy First Act

Fresh Energy appreciates the opportunity to share a few brief thoughts on House File 10, the Clean Energy First Act.

Fresh Energy strongly supports the Clean Energy First Act. This bill provides a clear roadmap for Minnesota's electric utilities, regulators, state agencies and energy stakeholders for how resource decisions will be made in an era when renewable energy is consistently the least cost option, and carbon reduction a public policy imperative. As technologies change over time and the pace of our electricity transition accelerates, the durable regulatory certainty provided by a framework such as Clean Energy First is an worthy goal for policymakers to pursue.

Utility resource planning is extraordinarily complex and to be done well, requires certainty and predictability. Changes to Minnesota's established process for resource planning should be done carefully and prudently. However, as others have noted, the existing language in statute that describes how renewable energy should be treated in resource planning is now more than 25 years old, and we believe that House File 10 provides a comprehensive set of updates that position Minnesota's regulatory framework well for the coming decade.

Over the past couple of sessions, there have been multiple iterations of "Clean Energy First" legislation that have been made public and they are all quite different. We believe that House File 10 does an excellent job of aligning utility resource planning with our state policy goals for greenhouse gas reduction as well as with the simple realities of today's electricity market. Representative Stephenson deserves a great deal of credit for working with a broad set of stakeholders to develop legislation that truly is Clean Energy First.

We look forward to additional conversations with members of this committee and other impacted parties as this bill moves forward. We encourage members to vote yes on House File 10.

Thank you for hearing our perspective as you consider this important legislation.

Justin Fay

Lead Director, Public Affairs

Fresh Energy