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House Ways and Means Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Letter of Support for [HF2754 \(Acomb\)](#) - House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Omnibus Bill: “Energy; biennial budget established for Department of Commerce, Public Utilities Commission, and energy, climate, and clean energy activities; energy, clean and renewable energy, energy storage, energy use and conservation, and utility regulation provisions established and modified; enhanced transportation electrification provided; Public Utilities Commission proceeding provisions added and modified; various clean and renewable energy grant programs established; technical changes made; reports required; and money appropriated.”

Dear Chair Olson, Vice Chair Edelson & all Committee Members:

Please strongly support and pass the important and historic House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Omnibus Bill which represents years of work and a well-warranted sense of urgency by legislators, experts and Minnesotans statewide who understand the climate, energy, health and life challenges that we current and future generations of humans and millions of other species increasingly face from the continued fossil fuel development and use. Fossil fuels cause greenhouse emissions, harmful pollutants and increasing extreme weather and climate change impacts resulting in severe damage and harm to life, well-being and financial resources. Effective spending and investment in renewable energy and other forms of climate action is therefore crucial.

These very important Guardian articles discuss the new attribution science progress including by our U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association (NOAA) that proves even more how it is global warming that is accelerating and worsening extreme weather events globally and nationally:

January 9, 2023: “Relentless rain, record heat: study finds climate crisis worsened extreme weather - Scientists describe as ‘very alarming’ research that shows severe weather events were made more likely by climate change”:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/09/climate-crisis-extreme-weather-heat-rainfall-drought>

January 10, 2023: “Extreme weather caused 18 disasters in US last year, costing \$165bn - Disasters costing at least \$1bn killed 474 people last year, government figures show”:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/10/extreme-weather-climate-crisis-us-deaths-financial-damage>

August 2022: “Revealed: how climate breakdown is supercharging toll of extreme weather - Guardian analysis shows human-caused global heating is driving more frequent and deadly disasters across the planet, in most comprehensive compilation to date”:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/04/climate-breakdown-supercharging-extreme-weather>

The omnibus bill will complement and further extend the wider goals of the 100% Clean Energy Bill ([House File 7](#) + [Senate File 4](#)) which the Minnesota Legislature thankfully passed to better protect people and our ecosystems by requiring utilities to provide more carbon-free electricity, including such important renewable energy sources as wind and solar.

The House Session Daily Story, “*House energy panel hits accelerator on transition to renewables, OK’s omnibus*” dated March 29 at <https://www.house.mn.gov/SessionDaily/Story/17891>, includes this excerpt:

“Earlier in the session, the House approved the move toward 100% carbon-free sources of electricity by 2040. Then it vowed to provide state matches for federal funds for alternative energy infrastructure. And now it’s taken another step on the road toward the widespread use of renewable energy sources.

On Wednesday, the House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee approved the omnibus climate and energy finance bill by a split-voice vote. It moves to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Patty Acomb (DFL-Minnetonka), HF2754, as amended, would send \$334.8 million toward energy-related projects and programs, including grants for pre-weatherization, upgrading residential electric panels, and helping schools put solar arrays on their roofs and electric school buses idling outside their doors. It would also finance rebate programs for the purchase of electric vehicles, air source heat pumps and energy storage systems.

‘What I have heard in my years of serving in an elected capacity is that climate change is an issue that’s important to Minnesotans,’ Acomb said. ‘Minnesotans are wanting and demanding action. Especially young people. And I think if we all continue to focus on the future that we will get there in a good way, working together.’

‘We are facing a once-in-humanity challenge,’ said Rep. Larry Kraft (DFL-St. Louis Park). ‘But it’s a tremendous opportunity.’

[MORE: [View the spreadsheet](#), [Learn more about what’s in the bill](#) at <https://www.house.mn.gov/SessionDaily/Story/17882>] ...”

Additional reasons to pass the omnibus bill with as much funding as possible include these facts and shared state, national and global goals:

- 1) The benefits of renewable energy are emphasized by our U.S. Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy at: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/renewable-energy> including:

“The advantages of renewable energy are numerous and affect the economy, environment, national security, and human health. Here are some of the benefits of using renewable energy in the United States:

- Enhanced reliability, security, and resilience of the nation’s power grid
- Job creation throughout renewable energy industries
- Reduced carbon emissions and air pollution from energy production
- Increased U.S. energy independence
- Increased affordability, as many types of renewable energy are cost-competitive with traditional energy sources
- Expanded clean energy access for non-grid-connected or remote, coastal, or islanded communities.”

“The United States is a resource-rich country with abundant renewable energy resources. The amount available is **100 times** that of the nation’s annual electricity need.”

In addition, an INFORUM article from December 16, 2022 shared that “The Minnesota Department of Commerce’s annual solar report (<https://mn.gov/commerce-stat/pdfs/solar-fact-sheet-2022.pdf>) shows solar power is becoming a broader energy choice in nearly all aspects.” (See: <https://www.inforum.com/news/minnesota/minnesota-solar-industry-forecasts-growth-as-capacity-consumption-continuously-climb>). That can continue, especially as we help step up the pace with more state support and prioritization.

- 2) Many people in Minnesota including many of us in the Democratic-Farmer-Lobby (DFL) very reasonably want to see effective climate action and expansion of renewable energy that also reduces racial, gender & economic disparities as stated in the majority-passed DFL Action Agenda under the categories of “Community Development & Local Business” and “Climate and Energy” (see: <https://dfi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/DFL-Action-Agenda-2022-Dec03-2.pdf>).

3) Minnesota's contributions are an important part of state leadership by example and also our nation's commitments already made on September 25, 2015 in New York City with 192 other counties in the UN General Assembly to reach the world's 17 Sustainable Development Goals by no later than 2030 (see announcement article: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/09/509732>). Those goals (listed at: https://sdgs.un.org/#goal_section) include these bolded goals that the MN Legislature's Energy & Climate Finance & Policy Omnibus Bill contributes toward:

- **GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being** *including with work to:*

- "By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination"

- **GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy** *including with work to:*

- "By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services."
- "By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix"
- "By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency"

- **GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** *including with work to:*

- "Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors"
- "Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services"
- "Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead"

- **GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure** *including with work to:*

- "Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all"
- "Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization ..."
- "Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries"

- **GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality** *including with work to:*

- "By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status"
- "Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard"
- "Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality"

- **GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** *including with work to:*

- "By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons"
- "By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management"
- By 2020 [or as soon after as possible], substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion,

resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (see: <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>), holistic disaster risk management at all levels

- **GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production** *including with work to:*
 - “Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead...”
 - “By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources”
 - “By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses”
 - “By 2020 [or as soon after as possible], achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment”
 - “By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse”
 - “Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle”
 - “Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities”
 - “By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature”

- **GOAL 13: Climate Action** *including with work to:*
 - “Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries”
 - “Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning”
 - “Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning”

- **GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions** *including with work to:*
 - “Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms”
 - “Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”
 - “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels”
 - “Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements”
 - Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

- **GOAL 17: Partnerships for the Goals** *including with work to:*
 - “Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries”
 - “Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships”

In summary, please 1) pass the House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Omnibus Bill and encourage your House and Senate colleagues to vote for the bill and its components in any conference committee negotiations so its full passage can be achieved this session with any improvements needed to make it better in light of all the imperatives outlined in this letter, and 2) continue to lead as legislators with as much additional and complementary work needed in the next legislative sessions as well.

Thank you,

Janette Dean

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Sierra Club Wilderness Guardian member; MN350 Action member; Houston County DFL member