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The Honorable Rob Ecklund
Chair, Minnesota House Committee on Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs
State Office Building Room 409
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Ecklund and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on House File 4177 (Ecklund) as amended by the DE1 author's amendment.

Article 2, Section 14 of the DE1 amendment would put Minnesota's commercial building sector on a path to achieve net zero for new building construction by 2036. This is a practical, substantive and common-sense approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the building sector for several reasons:

- It recognizes the importance and value of Minnesota's established process for regularly reviewing and updating the commercial energy code under the oversight of the Construction Codes Advisory Council (CCAC).
- It sets and achievable and measurable benchmark for evaluating progress and success
- By taking action now, the Legislature can achieve significant greenhouse gas emissions reduction while providing certainty for both state regulators and industry stakeholders

Accelerating progress in emissions reduction from the commercial building sector is critical to achieving reductions consistent with broader scientific consensus goal of reaching net-zero emissions economy-wide by mid-century. Every few years, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency publishes an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions in Minnesota. The most recent report, published in January 2021, shows that while Minnesota is making progress at reducing emissions from certain sectors of our economy, emissions from commercial buildings have actually *increased* by 15% since 2005.

Increasing emissions from the building sector is directly undermining the progress that Minnesota is making in other areas of our economy, and we must bend that curve in order to have any hope of achieving decarbonization at a pace consistent with the consensus of our best scientific leaders.

Minnesota has the technology and ingenuity to achieve solutions that work for our climate and our economy. House File 4177, as amended, puts us on a track to harness that opportunity, and we encourage members to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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