

I am writing to advocate for the 100% Clean Energy Bill

My name is Pastor John Hanson, retired and living on a lake in Marcell, Minnesota. I am the president of the Turtle Lake Association. I am on the Creation Care team of the Northeast Minnesota Synod of the ELCA; and I have built a retirement home that meets energy star requirements. Care of creation is an important issue for me.

I know that Minnesota Power out of Duluth is aggressively moving toward carbon free energy production, mainly through solar and wind generation. Great River Energy, the source of my electricity is following suit. I believe that state government should applaud and support such efforts from energy suppliers.

My focus is on the ethical decisions to care for the environment and the ability of future generations to live in a world that is healthy, safe, and sustainable. The threat of climate change, in the form of warming, threatening weather patterns, and displacement of whole populations threatened by climate change is a danger we all need to take responsibility to remedy.

Of course there are also economic considerations to uphold this bill. There are over 61,000 jobs in Minnesota in the clean energy field. Minnesota can be a leader in creating those jobs, and the research it takes to move toward sustainable clean energy.

The continued call for fossil fuel use has stirred controversy in northern Minnesota, and threatened the environment and way of life, especially for indigenous people, such as the Enbridge Line 3 controversy. It matters that our clean water, boreal forests, farms, and residents can live in a healthy, sustainable environment.

I urge your committee to support this bill.

John Hanson