

100%

100% Campaign
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April 6, 2021

Chair Long and Members of the Committee,

We're writing to share our support for five key parts of the House Climate and Energy Omnibus bill, House File 2110, H2110DE4 from 04/05/21 at 11:55am.

First, we support the 100% Clean Energy bill (62.27-70.7). Chair Long's bill is a critical effort to improve our state's energy system. The proposal is both ambitious and do-able. It effectively brings together diverse stakeholders to solve the technical, economic, and geographic challenges we face in building a state energy policy that's both science-based and popular. The bill would decarbonize our state's electrical system by 2040 while maximizing the benefits of our clean energy transition by:

- Creating family-supporting jobs
- Recognizing workers' rights to organize
- Providing workers with the tools, opportunities, and assistance needed to transition to clean energy, particularly in areas of concern for environmental justice
- Ensuring clean energy benefit and opportunities are fully shared
- Lowering air polluting emissions, particularly in areas of concern for environmental justice
- Keeping electricity affordable for low-income Minnesotans.

Second, we support the improvements to and investments in solar energy. The bill includes provisions to increase the use of solar energy systems in public places, like, schools (147.24-153.8, 154.22-155.6), state parks (155.7-155.13), and state buildings (155.14-155.22). It removes barriers to installing solar on farmland (153.27-154.12) and landfills (158.1-158.6, 179.28-180.10). It creates an innovative Community Access Solar program (145.20-147.23) that would ensure more low-income Minnesotans can share in the benefits of solar energy.

Third, we support the investments in electric vehicle infrastructure. The bill invests in infrastructure to support proven and popular electric vehicles. Its electric vehicle rebates (135.4-137.26, 141.2-141.15) will help increase ownership in Minnesota. Its proposal to add charging stations in parks (138.21-139.21, 142.9-142.15) and at county buildings (139.22-140.22, 142.16-142.44) will make that ownership easier. Its support for statewide electric school buses (133.6-135.3, 141.30-142.8) and Metro Transit electric bus deployment (140.23-140.31, 142.23-142.31) will help ensure everyone benefits.

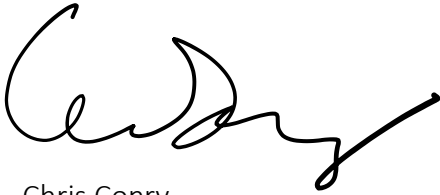
Fourth, we support the bill's investment in climate adaptation and resilience. The bill helps Minnesota prepare and adapt in five ways.

- It invests in \$583,000 in small area climate model projections (126.20-127.15). This is a powerful tool communities, agencies, planners, and researchers need to better prepare all of us for climate change risks.
- It appropriates \$10m to create a Minnesota Innovative Finance Authority focused in ensuring underserved areas benefit from our clean energy transition (55.8-60.26, 117.7-117.14).
- The bill improves on the work stakeholders have already done to improve the diversity of our utilities' workforces and vendors by requiring a new annual report from utilities (176.9-177.17).

- The bill provides \$3m for the Rebuild Right Grant Program, a model program for how Minnesota can support an equitable, long-term recovery in areas recovering from disasters (39.25-45.12, 49.25-49.30).
- The bill requires the Department of Commerce to support, upon request, Tribal Advocacy Councils on Energy (178.26-179.27). This program would help ensure Minnesotans across the state can fully participate in our clean energy transition.

Fifth, we encourage the committee continue making investments in home pre-weatherization. The bill makes two important steps forward but can and should go further to ensure more low-income Minnesotans can access the Weatherization Assistance Program. The bill establishes a Weatherization Task Force (47.7-49.10, 182.32-183.3) to take on this challenge directly and provides a modest appropriation to expand pre-weatherization services.

Thank you for your work time and attention,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
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