

March 15, 2021

Chair Representative Jamie Long
Members of the Committee
House Energy and Climate Finance and Policy
State Capitol Building
St. Paul Minnesota

We are writing you to support passage of the Natural Gas Innovation Act, H.F. 239. We are a group of University of Minnesota researchers. A portion of our research focuses on the role of renewable energy in reducing fossil-energy consumption in agricultural production systems. Significant research is in progress to evaluate the use of green ammonia to both store renewable energy and reduce emissions associated with the production of nitrogen fertilizer.

The Natural Gas Innovation Act will allow the state's natural gas utilities to begin to convert their existing infrastructure and skill sets to deliver low or no carbon fuels rather than fossil natural gas. The Act takes a holistic approach to emissions reduction in the state. To address climate change, the state needs a cross-sector approach to reducing emissions. We appreciate that the Act will require utilities to identify the agricultural sector benefits of the innovative resources they propose, signaling to the Public Utilities Commission that those are important benefits for consideration.

We particularly support the inclusion of renewable natural gas, power-to-hydrogen, and power-to-ammonia in the proposed legislation. Each of these resources has significant promise to provide low- or no-carbon energy and to support decarbonization of Minnesota's agricultural sector. Power-to-ammonia, in particular, can play a transformational role in decarbonizing agriculture and achieving 100% renewable energy.

We thank the committee for considering these important issues and support passage of the Natural Gas Innovation Act.



Michael Reese
Director, Renewable Energy Program
University of Minnesota West Central
Research and Outreach Center
Morris, MN



Dr. Prodromos Daoutidis
College of Science and Engineering
Distinguished Professor and Executive
Officer
University of Minnesota
Department of Chemical Engineering and
Materials Science
Minneapolis, MN