



June 7, 2025

RE: Energy Finance Working Group Agreement

Honorable Energy Chairs and Working Group Members,

CenterPoint Energy is Minnesota's largest natural gas utility. We proudly serve 920,000 residential and business customers with safe, reliable, and affordable energy solutions.

CenterPoint Energy extends our deepest thanks to energy committee members and staff for their dedicated work. We greatly appreciate the efforts taken to find agreement on policy and would like to highlight provisions in the Working Group Agreement that we are grateful to have included and support:

Securitization – (Xiong, Igo). Article 4. 31.1 – 48.21. Securitization is an affordability tool used in over 30 states in case of an unforeseen event, such as a natural disaster or devastating storm that result in extraordinary and unavoidable costs. Prime-rate bonds through securitization provide lower interest rates, that savings is passed onto customers. This legislation could help customers save costs and allow natural gas utilities to recover prudent costs. Ideally, securitization is a tool that would never be used but have available if an emergency arises. Regulatory oversight through the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) ensures transparency and that securitization is only allowed when it benefits customers. We thank the bill authors, chairs, and working group members for including this provision.

Storage Modification - (Hoffman, Sexton). Article 3. 21.19 – 22.8. Storage is used by utilities to manage supply risk during the coldest days and can be used to provide customer benefits including increased resiliency, lower system costs, and more opportunities to leverage made-in-Minnesota renewable natural gas (RNG). Increasing the liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage certificate of need (CON) threshold maintains all local, state, and federal permits while reducing cost and timeline for implementation. This modification reflects the first adjustment in 50 years. Affected agencies have been consulted and do not have concerns. We thank the bill authors, chairs, and working group members for including this provision.

LIHEAP language – Article 3. 17.15-17.19, 20.10-20.17, 21.13-21.15. Electric and gas utilities offer low-income programs based on qualification, current statute refers to 'LIHEAP' as a requirement. This language replaces a specific program (LIHEAP) by setting highly supported qualifications, allowing for efficient continuation of utility programs and support for income qualified customers. We thank the chairs and working group members for including this provision.

Sincerely,

Jamie Fitzke
CenterPoint Energy
Director, Government Affairs