



Minnesota Rural Electric Association



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March 9, 2022

Senator David Senjem, Chair
Senator Nick Frentz, Ranking Member
Members of the Senate Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee

RE: MREA Support for SF 3661

Dear Chair Senjem, Senator Frentz and members of the committee,

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association ("MREA") is the statewide association representing the interests of all 50 of the non-profit member-owned, member-governed electric cooperatives in Minnesota. I write in strong support for SF 3661, which would establish a state policy supporting the deployment of carbon capture and sequestration technologies.

All of Minnesota's electric cooperatives are reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from the power supply they provide their members, and are doing so both reliably and affordably. However, the North American Electric Reliability Council recently raised concerns that the Midwest may face significant generation capacity shortfalls in the near future.¹ Minnesota's electric cooperatives need access to all the tools in the toolbox to continue to reduce emissions from electricity generation while maintaining reliability and affordability of service. Carbon capture and sequestration technologies may be crucial to maintaining adequate generation capacity on the electric grid while continue to decarbonize power supply.

We urge your support for SF 3661. Thank you.

Mike Bull, Director
Policy and Regulatory Affairs

¹ See Walton, R, "Extreme weather, plant retirements challenge US grid amid a looming Midwest capacity shortfall: NERC" Utility Dive, December 21, 2021
<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/extreme-weather-plant-retirements-challenge-us-grid-amid-a-looming-midwest/611766/>