



**TO:** Senator David Senjem  
Members of the Senate Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy  
Committee

**FROM:** David Wager, Executive Director

**DATE:** March 15, 2022

The Minnesota Propane Association supports SF2185 and strongly recommends its passage by the Senate Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee. SF2185 would prevent local units of government from denying consumer choice when owners are deciding the most appropriate fuel for their buildings. This bill will keep government from choosing winners and losers in the free market. In addition to the unfairness and counter productiveness of these mandates, they are also unwise. If you count all of the carbon emissions related to the use of propane and grid electricity, the comparison will show that propane is much cleaner. This will remain true for a long time. Consider the following:

- Propane's low carbon intensity is why it is an approved clean alternative fuel under the Clean Air Act.
- The Energy Star Program gives propane a site ratio of 1.01 compared to 2.80 for grid electricity. This means propane is almost three times more efficient than grid electricity.
- Propane produces 43% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than using an equivalent amount of electricity generated from the U.S. grid.



- Propane prevents deforestation by replacing solid fuels such as wood and coal.
- Propane is electric grid free - making it a valuable partner energy source for solar and wind when the sun doesn't shine, and the wind doesn't blow.
- The flexible form of propane storage makes it easy to install in any environment without disrupting sensitive habitat.
- A typical propane tank has a useful life of 40 plus years, is made from 85% recycled steel and is 100% recyclable after service. The brass fittings are made from a high percentage of recycled brass and are 100% recyclable.
- Propane fueled technologies produce fewer nitrogen oxide (NOx) and sulfur oxide (SOx) emissions than technologies fueled by electricity, gasoline, and diesel.
- Propane-fueled residential furnaces emit up to 50% NOx emissions and 82% fewer SOx emissions than electric furnaces.
- In February 2021, based on a comparison of historical records, an estimated 4.7 million gallons of propane was sold for back-up to natural gas and electricity. That is the equivalent of heating approximately 6,300 homes in Minnesota **for a year**.

**Sources:** US EPA, US EIA, Union of Concerned Scientists, MNPEPSC