

March 14, 2022

To: Sen. David Senjem
Sen. Nick Frentz

CC: Sen. Kiffmeyer

From: Kent Sulem
Director of Government Relations and Senior Counsel
Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

Re: SF 2185

Dear Senators:

I am writing on behalf of MMUA, an organization whose membership includes 124 electric and 33 gas utilities across the State. In 2021, MMUA's membership strongly supported the ECO Act, in part because one of its key features was recognition of beneficial electrification by consumer choice and on a fuel-neutral basis. Earlier this year, MMUA's Board of Directors approved a legislative position statement to oppose efforts to ban such things as stoves, heating systems, etc. based on the type of fuel they used. This position was taken in recognition of both consumers being allowed to have at least some degree of choice, and the fact that electricity may not always be the most economical or otherwise viable source of energy.

While SF 2185 takes a slightly different and broader approach, and MMUA was not consulted on the drafting of the bill, it does raise these same general issues. MMUA does recognize that SF 285 protects consumer choice at the expense of local control, which is why dealing with individual uses instead of a blanket ban on fuel bans may be a better approach.

Municipal utilities support efforts to minimize greenhouse gas emissions. But actions taken by municipal utilities are necessarily based on providing reliable, sustainable, and affordable energy to their customers. Fuel-neutrality is an important part of the process.

MMUA hopes that the Senate will take these factors into consideration when deciding how to vote on SF 2185 and comparable bills that may surface during the 2022 legislative session.