



Clean Energy Economy MN
400 S 4th St, Minneapolis, MN 55415
CleanEnergyEconomyMN.org

March 17, 2022

Minnesota Senate
Committee on Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy
Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: support of permit reform for energy facilities and public utilities provisions modifications

Dear Chair Senjem and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of permitting reform and streamlining for Minnesota's changing energy landscape. We support this bill because Minnesota's regulatory framework was designed over forty years ago for the oversight of the state's investor-owned utilities before the advent of independent power producers and the massive renewable energy projects that are commonplace today. Our permitting process needs modernization to deal with these 21st century realities and help Minnesota meet our clean energy goals.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonprofit organization representing the business voice of clean energy in Minnesota. We work to help educate Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy and are committed to growing and strengthening Minnesota's clean energy business ecosystem. Our membership consists of more than 40 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations which employ thousands of Minnesotans across the state.

We thank Chair Senjem, Senator Rarick and Committee Members for their leadership to advance this important legislation. Minnesota has ambitious clean energy goals, and the continued development and acceleration of renewable energy is key to meeting them. Modernizing our permitting structure will allow Minnesota to be a more competitive and attractive place for renewable energy projects.

We have heard from multiple renewable developers the prospect of dealing with Minnesota's current regulatory environment makes Minnesota a less attractive place to do business than our neighboring states in the upper midwest. Significant regulatory reform combined with local hiring guidance laid out in this proposal makes it a big win for Minnesota's clean energy future while also helping to bring well-paying jobs to Minnesotans across our state.

Today, 55,300 Minnesotans are employed in well-paying clean energy jobs. In addition, CEEM and its member businesses know that climate risk is business risk. State policies, including SF 3051, support swift progress by removing unnecessary regulatory red tape to help create a thriving and prosperous clean energy future. This reform will send a powerful signal that Minnesota is open for business – attracting private sector investment and supporting local job creation.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our support for this bill and we look forward to its passage. If we can answer any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

George Damian, Director of Government Affairs
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