



April 7, 2022

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

RE: Senate Omnibus Energy and Climate Bill, SF 4392

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 Minnesota's non-profit rural electric cooperatives – which are owned by their members, governed by their members, and operate solely for the benefit of their 1.7 million members around the state and the communities in which they live.

As non-profit and community owned entities, we are committed to managing the clean energy transition while maintaining affordability and reliability of service for co-op members. We appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments on three provisions in the Senate Omnibus Energy and Climate Bill, SF 4392.

Provision	Page/Line	Question or Concern
Supplementation Weatherization Assistance	2.12 to 2.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We may be able to support supplemental funding for pre-weatherization assistance and worker training, as long as a significant majority of this funding is directed to Greater MN, where energy burden is 3 times higher than the average.

Provision	Page/Line	Question or Concern
State Competitiveness Fund	3.3 to 3.10 12.20 to 14.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support appropriating state funds for the nonfederal match for IJJA funds, and appreciate its inclusion. • Some level of state funding provided for this purpose is a potential remedy allowing for the participation of rural electric cooperatives without saddling electric cooperative member-owners with undue costs.
MN Green Innovative Finance Fund	3.16 to 3.32 14.9 to 20.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota already has a vibrant, robust and adequate financing network of nation-leading non-profit and community lenders all over the state. • This initiative would unnecessarily compete with and potentially displace those lenders.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and for all your work on behalf of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

s/Mike Bull
Mike Bull, Director
Policy and Regulatory Affairs