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March 9, 2022

The Honorable Carrie Ruud  
Chair, Minnesota Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee  
95 University Ave W.  
Minnesota Senate Building Room 3233  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Ruud and committee members,

Fresh Energy is a nearly 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan nonprofit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on Senate File 3065 (Mathews).

Section 6 of Senate File 3065 would remove the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's statutory obligation to protect air quality from motor vehicle pollution, as currently described in Minnesota statutes section 116.07, subdivision 2.

Fresh Energy opposes this change to current law. We believe it is imperative to maintain the role of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in protecting Minnesotans from exposure to air pollution from all sources, including motor vehicles. The MPCA plays a crucial role in safe-guarding the health of Minnesota, both its residents and natural resources. Reducing or undermining this critical public function risks subjecting our most vulnerable communities to even worse air quality as well as increasingly detrimental climate impacts.

A recent study by researchers at Harvard University's School of Public Health<sup>1</sup> found that declining pollution from motor vehicles has directly resulted in thousands of lives saved as a result – clear evidence that appropriate regulation and oversight of motor vehicle emissions translates directly to the preservation of human life as well as avoiding billions of dollars in associated health care expenses. Establishing a prohibition on MPCA's ability to consider regulations that reduce pollution from motor vehicles is at direct odds with these results.

The risks of emissions continue to be a pressing concern for public policymakers and we recognize that there continues to be significant legislative interest in this subject. Fresh Energy looks forward to continued dialogue with members of this committee throughout the remainder of the 2022 session and beyond.

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<sup>1</sup> [Decreased vehicle emissions linked with significant drop in deaths attributable to air pollution | News | Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health](#)

We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on this legislation and encourage members to remove section 6 from the bill prior to advancing it through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

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