



Minnesota Rural Electric Association



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Senator Jason Rarick, Chair

March 29, 2022

Senator Jennifer McEwen, Ranking Member

Members of the Senate Labor and Industry Policy Committee

RE: MREA Support Sections 12 and 13 of SF 388, the A-3 Delete All Amendment

Dear Chair Rarick, Senator McEwen and members of the committee,

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association ("MREA") is the statewide association representing the interests of all 50 of the non-profit member-owned, member-governed electric cooperatives in Minnesota— which are owned by their members, governed by their members, and operate solely for the benefit of their 1.7 million electric coop members around the state.

We strongly support sections 12 and 13 in the delete all amendment, and thank Senator Rarick for their inclusion. These sections contain permit and inspection exemptions for the replacement of load control receivers – exemptions that are necessary for Minnesota's electric cooperatives to move ahead with necessary technology upgrades. Replacement of these LCRs will allow Minnesota electric cooperatives to operate better, more flexible load management programs – both to significantly reduce costs for coop members, and to better integrate low-cost renewables into their systems.

These sections rely heavily on the expertise and experience of licensed electricians, in whom we all have great confidence, to make a determination as to whether any particular LCR change out needs specific attention and repair, rather than require each replacement to be permitted and inspected. This avoids the significant costs and delays associated with permits and inspection of all of these LCR replacements.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mike Bull

Mike Bull, Director, Policy and Regulatory Affairs