



January 23, 2023

Minnesota Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
95 University Avenue W., Room 1150
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: **SF 4 - Electric utility renewable energy standard obligations modifications.**

Dear Chair Frentz and members of the committee,

Clean Grid Alliance (CGA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SF 4.

CGA is a nonprofit organization headquartered and working in Minnesota, plus eight additional states in the Midwest. CGA's membership consists of wind and solar developers, manufacturers, and nonprofit clean energy advocacy organizations. CGA is well-known for its technical and policy expertise, and ability to bring diverse groups together to advance opportunities for renewable energy development throughout the region.

CGA supports SF 4 and its effort to set a 100% carbon free standard by 2040, but recognizes that to achieve this goal, common sense siting and permitting reforms will be necessary. Several essential provisions are included to maintain the feasibility of rigorous clean energy deployment. The bill:

- Eliminates the Certificate of Need (CN) Requirement for IPP (Independent Power Producer) wind and solar projects to **better reflect Minnesota's changing energy landscape**;
- **Reforms and streamlines the permitting process** by changing certain requirements for low-voltage transmission lines;
- Improves the environmental review process by **removing unnecessary red tape**; and
- **Statutorily validates consideration of local benefits, labor, and socioeconomic impacts** in permitting decisions.

To achieve our carbon-free goals, we must also pursue pragmatic policies to help us get there. Clean energy deployment provisions are an essential part of reaching 100% by 2040. CGA is happy to provide more information on the specifics of this important work.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madelyn Smerillo".

Madelyn Smerillo
Senior Policy Associate

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peder Mewis".

Peder Mewis
Regional Policy Manger

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