



January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

TO: Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Finance and Policy Committee  
FROM: Andrea Lovoll, Legislative Director, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
RE: SF 4 – 100% Clean Energy Standard

Chair Frentz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your service to the people of Minnesota and thank you for the opportunity to testify on SF 4 (Frentz). Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) is a nonprofit organization with almost 50 years of experience using law and science to protect Minnesota's environment and the health of its people.

MCEA endorses the 100% legislation to enact a clean energy standard for Minnesota. This standard will require utilities to produce carbon-free electricity by 2040 and will get us on track to meet Minnesota's Next Generation Energy Act goals and align with the internationally recognized IPCC targets. It will send a powerful signal to utilities to aggressively invest in and expand renewable electricity and transmission resources needed to fully decarbonize the power sector.

We know that transitioning Minnesota's energy system to carbon-free and reliable electricity by 2040 is technically, economically, and socially possible. In fact, the world's leading scientists and United States' climate commitments call for even earlier goals. The Clean Energy Standard is transformational and achievable, and an important step forward towards protecting the places and people we love. Furthermore, it strengthens Minnesota's clean energy economy with family-supporting jobs across the state.

The 100% legislation will achieve deep emission reductions that will improve public health and save lives. Our analysis using the Minnesota Energy Policy Solutions simulator suggests that a Clean Energy Standard requiring all utilities to produce carbon-free electricity by 2040 would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a cumulative 273 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents by 2050. These emission reductions are equivalent to the amount of carbon dioxide produced by 73 coal-fired power plants in one year and would represent a total of 12% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for our state relative to business as usual by 2050. Additionally, a 100% by 2040 standard would prevent 31 air-pollution-related deaths, 352 asthma attacks, and 1,665 lost work days due to illness.

Finally, we appreciate the bill language that begins the acknowledgment that polluting incinerators are not carbon-free, renewable energy, and look forward to further discussions around transitioning to carbon-free energy.

Thank you,

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