



The Office of
Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison
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February 8, 2023

The Honorable Nick Frentz
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment,
and Climate
Minnesota Senate Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298

Re: Senate File 658

Dear Madam Chair and Members:

I write in support of Senate File 658. This bill would provide Minnesotans with additional protections to help vindicate their rights in disputes with their public utilities. Accordingly, I encourage the Senate Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee to advance this important bill.

One of my duties as Attorney General is to advocate for residential and small business utility customers, per Minn. Stat. § 8.33. My role as a ratepayer advocate is central to my mission to help Minnesotans afford their lives and live with dignity, safety, and respect. The ability to access safe, reliable, and affordable electric and natural gas service is essential. Minnesotans depend on these services to heat their homes in cold Minnesota winters and power the technologies required to participate in modern society. Occasionally, ratepayers will have complaints with respect to their public utilities. Unfortunately, when individual customers have concerns with large corporations, they suffer from an appreciable power disparity and sometimes require assistance in order to vindicate their rights.

Senate File 658 would improve, clarify, and codify significant procedural protections for ratepayers seeking to file complaints against their public utilities. Specifically, the bill includes a complaint resolution procedure, a process for appealing the outcome of their complaint to the Public Utilities Commission, and a mechanism for seeking judicial review of the Commission's process. I enthusiastically support Senate File 658 urge you to pass it.

Thank you for allowing me to provide my recommendations with respect to this bill. If you have any questions or would like additional information, my team and I would be happy to help in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Ellison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

KEITH ELLISON
Attorney General