

**100%**

100% Campaign  
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[www.100percentmn.org](http://www.100percentmn.org)

March 3, 2023

Chair Frentz and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Senate Files 1968 (Kunesh), 2460 (Xiong), 2166 (Xiong), and 2156 (Murphy).

As we transition to a cleaner and more equitable economy in Minnesota, it's essential that we include everyone, that everyone has a chance to participate, and that everyone benefits. In different ways, each of the four bills the committee is considering is an important step forward for Minnesota communities and consumers.

**First, we support Senator Kunesh's Senate File 1968, a bill requiring the Department of Commerce to assist the Tribal Advocacy Council on Energy.** Minnesota's sovereign nations are already leaders on protecting our land, air, and water. Requiring the Department of Commerce to assist Minnesota's sovereign nations in their energy transition planning, when requested, is a great idea. It should strengthen government to government relationships and ensure every community benefits from our transition.

**Second, we support Senator Xiong's Senate File 2460, a bill to support smaller organizations that are participating in Public Utilities Commission (PUC) proceedings.** Minnesota's PUC plays a vital role in implementing Minnesota's energy laws. However, participation in the proceedings presents a very high barrier to participation. Sustaining relevant legal and technical expertise for months, often years, is costly. This means the PUC is sometimes missing out on critical stakeholder perspectives. This bill will help address this challenge by providing a way for smaller organizations to be compensated for a portion of their costs. This bill will help lower the barrier to participation in one of Minnesota's most important regulatory bodies.

**Third, we support Senator Xiong's Senate File 2166, a bill to protect Minnesota consumers from natural gas price spikes.** This bill is a vital way to address a consumer challenge Minnesotans faced starting in 2021. In February of 2021, Winter Storm Uri knocked out natural gas infrastructure in Texas leading to price spikes (and price gouging) across the U.S. By allowing natural gas utilities to recover extraordinary costs through securitization, Minnesota would give our state another tool in the toolbox to protect ratepayers from footing the bill.

**Fourth, we support Senate File 2156, Senator Erin Murphy's bill to establish the 'Buy Clean and Buy Fair Minnesota Act'.** The bill would require that materials used in the construction (or major renovation) of state buildings over 50,000 square feet or trunk highways include a Type III Environmental Product Declaration, as certified by the International Organization for Standard's 14025 Standard. Meeting this standard would help ensure that the steel, concrete, and asphalt paving materials that Minnesota uses have lower lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions. The bill provides a pilot program, a waiver process, grants to businesses to support compliance, and a requirement to report back to the legislature in 2025. All of these will help ensure the program meets its goals.

Please vote 'yes' on Senate Files 1968, 2460, 2166, and 2156.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

*Aurora Vautrin*

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Legislative Director

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