



408 Saint Peter Street, Suite 350  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

PHONE 651 225 0878

EMAIL [info@fresh-energy.org](mailto:info@fresh-energy.org)

WEBSITE [fresh-energy.org](http://fresh-energy.org)

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Minnesota Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee  
3109 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue W  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Frentz and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. Fresh Energy is pleased to support Senator Dibble's Senate File 2267 to supplement funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and make the program year-round.

Many households across the states are struggling to pay their energy bills, especially at a time when energy costs continue to rise. Energy burden—the percentage of monthly income that a household spends on energy costs—is four-times higher for under-resourced households than for the average Minnesota household. LIHEAP serves under-resourced households who are struggling to pay their bills, particularly in times of emergency and crisis.

All Minnesotans should have access to reasonable energy costs throughout the year, not just during the winter. Expanding LIHEAP with this significant supplemental state funding aligns with Minnesota's commitment to equity and resiliency, in that it eases the energy burden in under-resourced households, allowing people to meet their immediate energy needs. This makes people more resilient to unexpected costs and builds economic stability. Meeting people where they are at is necessary if we want to ensure an equitable transition to a clean energy economy.

We thank Senator Dibble for his leadership and encourage members of the committee to support SF2267.

Sincerely,

Mari Ojeda  
Senior Policy Associate, Energy Access and Equity  
Fresh Energy  
[ojeda@fresh-energy.org](mailto:ojeda@fresh-energy.org)