



March 13, 2023

Chair Frentz
Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Frentz and Committee Members,

CURE thanks the Committee for this opportunity to testify in support of S.F. 2301. CURE is a rurally based, non-profit organization dedicated to uplifting rural voices and strengthening rural communities. The MN Climate Innovation Finance Authority (MNCIFA) created by S.F. 2301 would be an essential tool for strengthening those communities, ensuring they are able to be part of and benefit from the critical energy transition.

MNCIFA would help communities, organizations, and businesses identify, coordinate, and obtain financing, (grants, rebates, and low-interest loans) for projects that address their most pressing needs. MNCIFA could help:

- Homeowners leverage federal incentives by providing upfront capital for energy efficient appliances like heat pump water heaters and electric ranges, rooftop solar, or weatherization projects.
- Cities coordinate and finance the construction of community-wide distributed energy generation and battery resiliency hubs or district heating and cooling systems.
- Communities build infrastructure for the services they need for economic development—like food coops or childcare centers—by incorporating renewable energy and efficiency technologies that save operating costs in the short and long term.
- Rural Electric Coops make investments in renewables, grid infrastructure, and electric vehicle charging stations.

Importantly, a key feature of S.F. 2301 is that it provides technical assistance in addition to financial expertise so that communities may take advantage of opportunities to increase their resilience while saving money.

S.F. 2301 has the potential to change the way people and communities across our state participate in the transition to an equitable, just, and sustainable way of living. CURE thanks the Committee for considering this issue and for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sarah Mooradian

Government Relations & Policy Director
Clean Up the River Environment (CURE)

117 S 1st Street

Montevideo, MN 56265

(320) 269-2984

sarah@cureriver.org