

100%

100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114
www.100percentmn.org

March 21, 2023

Chair Frentz and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Senator Nicole Mitchell's Senate Files 2747 and 2295.

Our transition to a cleaner, more equitable economy means real opportunities to improve the lives of Minnesotans. In particular, to reach net-zero emissions economy-wide by 2050, we'll need to improve our state's buildings, making them safer, cleaner, and more affordable. These two bills will support this transition, reducing barriers to participation and increasing transparency for tenants.

First, we support Senate File 2747, a bill to upgrade our electric grid in order to ease the interconnection of distributed electric generation. Too many Minnesotans are facing long delays or high costs when trying to connect rooftop solar to our electric grid. Sen. Mitchell's bill would focus attention and resources on solving this problem. The bill would require planning for and the creation of a program within the Xcel service territory to upgrade the infrastructure we need to interconnect more small-scale renewables and storage technologies. The system of the future will include a robust and integrated mix of small, medium, and large-scale clean energy generation. This bill will help make the vision more achievable for Minnesota families who have been frustrated for years.

Second, we support Senate File 2295, a bill to create an energy benchmarking system for large commercial buildings. Benchmarking is how we measure and report the annual energy use of a building. It's a critical first step for both reducing costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Minnesota has experience with benchmarking in some of our largest cities, like Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and Bloomington. It's a proven and reliable system for better understanding building performance. The bill would establish this system statewide for as yet uncovered commercial buildings over 50,000 square feet. This tool would help put Minnesota on the path to cleaner, more affordable, better performing buildings for everyone.

Please support Senate Files 2747 and 2295.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aurora Vautrin

Aurora Vautrin
Legislative Director
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