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RE: Support for SF2987 (Rarick, R-Pine City)

Honorable members of the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee,

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative which provides electricity to approximately 1.7 million people through its 27 member-owner cooperatives and customers. Through its member-owners and customers, Great River Energy serves two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin. Every day, Great River Energy and our member-owners work together to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy.

Great River Energy and our member-owners have long partnered with the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). We are currently engaged in efforts related to Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act analysis and technical assistance, the Air Source Heat Pump Collaborative, along with collaborating on programmatic offerings.

Great River Energy and our member-owners are currently working with the CEE and other partners to prepare for the influx of federal dollars through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). This bill will bolster Minnesota's income eligible utility programming and benefit our member-owners and the communities they serve. The bill will streamline low-income utility programming and ensure coordination with new IRA funding while maintaining access to existing resources.

As a member-driven cooperative owned by the 27 member-owner cooperatives we serve, Great River Energy is motivated to meet the expectations of our member-owners. The communities that will benefit from this bill language are diverse, wide, and deep. This language will help many partners we work with address these needs.

We support this bill language and look forward to maximizing the benefits associated with these program offerings and developing efficient approaches that result in positive outcomes for the communities served by our member-owners.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffrey T. Haase  
Director, Member Services, DER and End Use Strategy