



Minnesota Rural Electric Association

11640 73rd Avenue N | Maple Grove, MN 55369 | p: 763-424-1020 f: 763-424-5820 | www.mrea.org

March 20, 2023

Senator Nick Frentz
Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
95 University Avenue W., Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee,

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) represents the interests of the state's 50 rural electric cooperatives. Our member cooperatives are not-for-profit electric utility businesses that are locally owned and governed by the member-consumers they serve. We submit this letter to express our support for SF 2987, we thank Senator Rarick for his work to improve the definition of those Minnesota households eligible for low-income programs under the Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act.

This effort would expand the pool of eligible candidates for assistance under ECO by updating MN Statute 216B.241. It provides better alignment with other federal, state, and utility programs for assisting low-income households, and provides additional flexibility to ensure more meaningful programs can be carried out successfully. It will reduce administrative burden and duplicative paperwork for households that demonstrate eligibility for other programs and allow for better synergy in carrying out these programs in ways that will have a meaningful positive impact for Minnesotans.

We appreciate the Committee considering this bill and we encourage members to vote in support of it.

Sincerely,

Darrick Moe
President & CEO
Minnesota Rural Electric Association