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Minnesota Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate  
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 by mid-century. We are grateful for the opportunity to weigh-in on Senate File 3030, authored by Chair Frentz.

Fresh Energy supports creating a Distributed Energy Grant program as envisioned by SF 3030. As Minnesota transitions its electric supply from legacy generation to new, carbon-free resources, utilities across the state are presented with new challenges—and new opportunities—for managing their electric grids.

The deployment of distributed energy resources (DER) like solar photovoltaics, energy storage, and electric vehicles, require changes to our distribution systems to accommodate two-way power flow and different consumption patterns. New technology also offers opportunities to more efficiently manage the grid to provide customers with new options, cleaner energy, and improved resilience. SF 3030 would help utilities across the state deploy DER and related infrastructure or management tools to demonstrate how DER and distribution system management can provide public benefits like resilience, more affordability, load flexibility, or environmental benefits.

Thank you to Chair Frentz for bringing this bill forward and for the opportunity to provide input on this important component of our energy transition.

Sincerely,

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