



March 26, 2023

Senator Nick Frentz  
Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee  
95 University Ave W  
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3109  
St. Paul, MN 55155

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

Center for Energy and Environment (“CEE”) respectfully submits this letter to express our full support for SF 3030 that will support our local municipal utilities and co-operatives to assist in their clean energy transition.

As a member of the 100% coalition, CEE supports the additional grant assistance directed to Minnesota’s consumer-owned utilities (COUs) for upgrading and improving their distribution grid system. Many of Minnesota’s COUs are small, operating with limited staffing and resources. For instance, the co-operatives serve over 1.7 million and maintain more than 135,000 miles of electric line across a majority of the state. These additional funds will help drive their not-for-profit mission of serving their communities with competitive energy costs, reliability, and responsible energy infrastructure investments without sacrificing other necessary business investments.

For Minnesota to reach its 100% carbon-free energy goal by 2040, we need to support our small utilities to achieve great things. By doing so, all of Minnesota will realize the benefits of a cleaner, healthier future. Thank you to the committee for the inclusion of the bill in the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee budget omnibus.

Sincerely,

/s/ Audrey Partridge  
Director of Policy  
Center for Energy and Environment