



March 28, 2023

Senator Nick Frentz
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3109
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 2847 – Climate and Energy Omnibus

Dear Chair Frentz:

On behalf of the Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota (CUB), thank you for including in your omnibus many bills that will have a positive impact on Minnesota utility consumers. In particular:

- The update to the state's intervenor compensation statute will help the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) better consider the public interest in its decision making. It will help address the fact the ratepayer perspectives, particularly from communities that are disproportionately impacted by energy costs and pollution, are underrepresented in PUC proceedings. We strongly urge you to keep this policy in the bill with no sunset.
- Full funding for the Public Utilities Commission and Department of Commerce energy sections will help Minnesota move quickly toward our clean energy goals without sacrificing consumer protections in the process.
- The PUC customer dispute resolution provisions will provide an essential right of appeal to Minnesotans with legal disputes regarding their utilities.
- Funding for weatherization assistance will help Minnesotans with unaffordable energy burdens permanently reduce their energy bills. Pre-weatherization assistance and workforce training will help the state make the most of additional funding coming from the federal level.
- Funding for the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) will help communities around the state advance their local energy goals.

We appreciate your work to evaluate and reform the community solar program to improve impacts for costs and equity. After 10 years of the program's operation, and given the passage of the 100% clean electricity law, this is an appropriate time to reconsider the program. We appreciate your hard work to find resolution on this issue.

We were disappointed that there was not room in the committee's budget to support supplemental funding for the Energy Assistance program. Additional assistance is badly needed due to high energy costs and inflation putting pressure on family budgets, and to help families with increased cooling costs with our hotter summers. We respectfully encourage you to make Energy Assistance a priority should additional funding become available.

Thank you for your hard work on this bill.

Sincerely,

Annie Levenson-Falk
Executive Director