



March 29, 2023

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

We write today to voice our support for SF 2847 (Frentz), as amended, the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Finance Omnibus; which helps accelerate Minnesota's progress toward a sustainable clean energy future.

At Conservation Minnesota, our mission is to protect the people and the places that Minnesotans love. Fighting climate change and transitioning to clean energy are central to this goal; and ensuring that Minnesotans are leading and benefiting in this process is vital. SF 2847 is an important contribution to this transition, making crucial investments and reforms toward decarbonization and resilience across our state; including, but not limited to:

Buy Clean and Buy Fair Minnesota Act

Each year, Minnesota's industrial sector produces the equivalent of roughly 20 million tons of carbon dioxide, and the emissions created by this sector have actually *increased* since 2005. A significant portion of these emissions stems from large-scale fossil fuel combustion generated to source the state's construction materials. The Buy Clean and Buy Fair Minnesota Act included in SF 2847 takes necessary steps to reduce the global warming potential of these materials, studying and encouraging sustainable procurement of steel, concrete, and asphalt. This provision directly addresses industrial emissions while providing a competitive advantage to locally-sourced, clean construction materials.

Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority

As our state sets out to achieve 100% clean energy by 2040, we must accelerate the deployment of clean energy and emissions reduction projects. These technologies have already proven their reliability and resilience, but their buildout will require additional capital in order to meet the scale necessary to face the climate crisis. The Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority helps provide this financing, reducing barriers that slow the expansion of green solutions.

Electric Vehicle Rebates, Dealer Grants, State Vehicle Preference Order, Electric Vehicle Deployment Program

The transportation sector in Minnesota emits the equivalent over 36 million tons of CO₂ each year, constituting the largest emitting sector in the state. It is important that our state recognizes these emissions and takes steps to reduce them by expanding access to electric vehicles. By including common-sense provisions sourced from SF 1296, this omnibus this bill makes electric vehicles more affordable with accessible rebates, eases burdens on auto dealers by offsetting training and certification costs for electric vehicle sales and maintenance, prepares for higher electric vehicle usership with public utility planning, and demonstrates the effectiveness of electric vehicles through state agency fleets.

Energy Transition Grant Program

A key component of an effective clean energy future is ensuring an equitable transition away from fossil fuels. As this transition accelerates, it's necessary for our state to support communities that have long relied on retiring energy generation facilities. The Energy Transition Grant Program funded through the RDA enables forward-thinking planning and investments to protect the long-term prosperity of these communities and their residents.

Pre-Weatherization and Workforce Training

In addition to transitioning to renewable energy, Minnesota can make energy use cleaner and more affordable for residents by ensuring that our homes are as efficient as possible. By fully funding the Governor's request for pre-weatherization assistance and workforce training, this omnibus allows for much-needed home efficiency investments in low-income households and for necessary labor development to make these investments possible.

With these investments and other key inclusions, SF 2847 helps put Minnesota on track to meet its climate responsibilities, adding an exclamation point to a historic session for energy progress. *We respectfully urge your support.*

Sincerely,

Nels Paulsen, Policy Director

+1 (608) 469-5299

nels@conservationminnesota.org

David Pelikan, Policy Associate

+1 (262) 685-7265

david@conservationminnesota.org