



DATE: March 28th, 2023

TO: Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee

FROM: Andrea Lovoll, Legislative Director, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

RE: SF 2847 A9 (Frentz) Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Omnibus Bill

Chair Frentz and Members of the Committee:

SF 2847 A9 (Frentz) contains transformative projects and legislative changes. It rises to this moment by advancing needed policy changes and significant investments in climate action and critical renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy storage and transportation electrification. We applaud the strong considerations and allocations for environmental justice communities and Tribal governments in this bill. SF 2847 A9 (Frentz) does a good job of making targeted investments of \$255 million over the biennium.

We fully support the following provisions:

Preweatherization (lines 65.21–67.18) and **Weatherization support** (lines 67.19–67.24):

These programs reduce energy use in existing residential and commercial buildings, especially for low-income households, lessening the high energy burdens they face.

Solar on Schools (lines 76.24–77.30) and **Solar on Public Buildings** (lines 81.1–84.11):

These programs will expand public benefit from solar photovoltaic power generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Distributed Energy Resources System Upgrades (lines 78.1–80.33):

This provision will address interconnection issues and ensure that the grid is ready to support further deployment of renewable energy and storage technologies.

Energy Storage Incentive Program (lines 84.12– 85.8):

This program accelerates crucial on-site storage for a reliable energy transition.

EV Rebates and Grants for EV infrastructure (lines 85.9–88.1):

We support these provisions, which appear throughout the omnibus bill, but particularly EV infrastructure as introduced in SF 1132 (Morrison) for electrifying the transportations sector.

Heat pump rebates (lines 100.27–102.26): Air-source heat pumps will reduce demand for natural gas heating and are more efficient cooling systems than traditional air conditioners.

Electric panel upgrade grants (lines 102.27–106.5): Upgrading electrical panels, as first introduced in SF 1787 (Xiong), is a critical first step to electrifying the economy by adding capacity for electric vehicle charging and on-site solar and storage.

We recommend consideration to increase funding for the following provision:

Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority (lines 88.26– 100.26):

Originally traveling as SF 2301 (Xiong), this bill addresses existing inequities in financing access, promotes local jobs, and leverages historic federal and state funding to bolster climate solutions that benefit everybody. **We would like to see an allocation of \$45,000,000** instead of the \$5,000,000 allocated under this bill.

We recommend the inclusion of these provisions:

Greenhouse Gas Reductions: We encourage you to adopt the House Climate Omnibus Bill language which updates Statute 216H.02 on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Control to align with the IPCC targets and reach net zero economy-wide by 2050.

Minnesota State Competitiveness Fund: We support the passage of SF 1622 (Frentz) as a standalone bill, which has been passed in the House. This fund capitalizes upon the IIJA and IRA money made available through the federal government. We strongly urge the House and the Senate to come together on the Governor's \$113,750,000 budget line to fully fund this once-in-a-generation climate program.

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