



March 27, 2023

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

Re: Support for SF 2460-intervenor compensation

Dear Senator Frenz;

The Energy CENTS Coalition strongly supports Senator Xiong's SF 2460, which updates and expands the existing statute providing compensation to qualifying public-interest intervenors in certain Public Utilities Commission proceedings.

We understand that the bill has been the subject of negotiations since its committee hearing, during which the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) has attempted to resolve concerns raised by trade unions, represented by LIUNA. In the course of those negotiations, CUB has offered concessions on nearly every point that LIUNA raised. These concessions seriously constrain the bill – which was already a compromise negotiated over the last biennium. We are disappointed to see that the compromise reduces the amount of compensation and rules out compensation in some of the most important proceedings. However, we know this compromise may be needed to get the bill done.

We also understand that there is still consideration of including a sunset for this program. Because the bill repeals and rewrites the existing intervenor compensation statute, making it much more difficult to earn compensation, even a sunset that still allows compensation in rate cases would move the existing statute in the wrong direction. Unfortunately, this would be worse than passing no bill at all.

On behalf of low-income ratepayers, we respectfully urge you to pass a strong intervenor compensation bill with no sunset. Thank you for your hard work on this topic and your attention to our comments.

Sincerely,

Catherine Fair
Executive Director

cc: Sen. Tou Xiong
Justin Emmerich, committee administrator