



408 Saint Peter Street, Suite 350  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

PHONE 651 225 0878

EMAIL [info@fresh-energy.org](mailto:info@fresh-energy.org)

WEBSITE [fresh-energy.org](http://fresh-energy.org)

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Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave. W  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Committee,

At Fresh Energy, we are committed to advancing bold policy solutions to equitably achieve a carbon-neutral economy, and we are grateful for your partnership in this effort. For over 30 years Fresh Energy has been working at the intersection of science, policy, and education. During that time, we've learned the importance of having competent, compassionate, and creative leaders at the head of Minnesota's state agencies.

I am writing to express Fresh Energy's strong support for Katrina Kessler as Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). During her tenure in state government, Commissioner Kessler has been a staunch advocate for Minnesota's air, land, and water, while never losing sight of the fact that we can advance equitable environmental and climate protections that improve the lives of all Minnesotans and grow our economy.

I've also appreciated Commissioner Kessler's commitment to meaningful engagement and outreach with impacted communities, businesses, and members of the environmental advocacy community. Policymaking does not occur in a vacuum, and durable policy development must take into account the voices of those who are impacted by a decision, especially those who have been historically marginalized. I know Commissioner Kessler will continue to emphasize proactive community engagement at the MPCA, which will serve the legislature and all Minnesotans well.

In her role chairing the Governor's Climate Change Subcabinet, Commissioner Kessler led the creation of Minnesota's Climate Action Framework. This document aligns Minnesota's climate goals with the scientific consensus and lays the foundation for an all-of-government approach for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, improving Minnesota's resiliency, and growing our economy. Going forward, Minnesota will need strong leaders to realize the document's promise. I believe Commissioner Kessler's confirmation is a critical step towards that end.

If Fresh Energy can be of further assistance regarding Commissioner Kessler's confirmation, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

Michael Noble  
Executive Director