



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

PHONE 651 225 0878

EMAIL info@fresh-energy.org

WEBSITE fresh-energy.org

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Minnesota Senate Finance Committee
3401 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Marty and committee members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our support for Senate File 1622 (Senator Frentz).

Fresh Energy has been closely tracking the historic influx of federal funding for clean energy that has been announced over the past two years. This funding is poised to vastly decrease our country and state's carbon dioxide emissions and usher us further along the path of clean energy and a healthy, efficient, electrified economy.

However, a significant portion of federal dollars can only be unlocked with matching funds; this bill would help fill in that critical missing piece for Minnesota to take full advantage of federal dollars throughout the state. We are also pleased that this bill includes funding for technical assistance, another key piece of the puzzle to ensuring an equitable transition to a clean energy economy in Minnesota. Such funding will enable groups unfamiliar with clean energy solutions, or those with limited staff capacity, to still be able to learn what projects are available that fit the needs of their community and go through the—often—lengthy and resource-intensive application process. This funding will help these entities see the benefits of a cleaner, healthier environment and economy.

We look forward to continuing to work with lawmakers, agency staff, advocates, and others on how to best meet the unique moment upon us with this federal clean energy funding, including other opportunities for expanding and enhancing federal investments. Thank you to Senator Frentz for his leadership on this important opportunity for Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Anjali Bains
Lead Director, Energy Access and Equity
Bains@fresh-energy.org