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Minnesota Senate Finance Committee  
3235 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave. W  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Marty and Committee Members,

My name is Anna Johnson, and I am writing today on behalf of Fresh Energy. Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota based non-partisan, non-profit organization working to achieve equitable, carbon-neutral economies by 2050. We appreciate the opportunity to write to you regarding Senate File 2847, the Climate and Energy Omnibus bill authored by Chair Frentz.

Fresh Energy strongly supports Senate File 2847. 2023 has already been a historic year for climate action and clean energy with the passage of the 100% carbon-free electricity standard. However, in order to meet the 100% goal—as well as decarbonize across all other sectors of our economy—significant state investments are needed. This bill makes an important first stride in this direction, with funding for a variety of impactful climate programs that will also improve public health and reduce costs for consumers.

We are especially supportive of two programs included in this bill. The residential electric panel grant will help residents—especially low- and middle-income—electrify their homes. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the buildings sector will be a challenge, but it is critical to meeting statewide goals. Additionally, the distributed energy system provisions are an important step in helping to address challenges related to solar interconnection and existing constraints on our electric grid. This program will help Minnesotans who want to invest in clean energy on their own terms, while also supporting investments in our shared grid infrastructure and our clean energy transition.

There are several other provisions in the bill that will help Minnesota meet the moment on climate, including (but not limited to): support for electric vehicles; energy benchmarking for commercial buildings; the Buy Clean and Buy Fair Act; Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority; investments in weatherization; a study on nuclear energy in Minnesota; and policy language that ensures low-income access to energy efficiency programs.

Minnesota has the technology and ingenuity to achieve solutions that work for our climate and our economy; Senate File 2847 puts us on track to harness that opportunity. We appreciate the hard work of Chair Frentz, Energy Committee members, committee staff, and bill authors for their efforts, and we encourage members to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Anna Johnson

Senior Manager, State and Local Affairs - Fresh Energy

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