



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 State and Local Government and Veterans Committee
3211 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Murphy and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, nonprofit organization. Our mission is to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on Senate File 2156 (Sen. Murphy).

Fresh Energy supports the Buy Clean and Buy Fair Minnesota Act. Climate change is an existential threat that is impacting our way of life. Climate change's complexity means that Minnesota must deploy every tool in the toolbox to meet the challenge. With the passage of the 100% carbon-free electricity standard earlier this year, Minnesota is well-positioned to rise to the occasion and tackle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from other sectors of the economy, while still growing our economy and creating jobs with family-sustaining wages.

By enacting Senate File 2156, Minnesota can lead by example in procuring products that have significantly lower GHG emissions impacts than traditional building materials. Importantly, this legislation uses a rigorous data-driven approach for quantifying the lifecycle emissions of steel, concrete, asphalt, and rebar in establishing a procurement standard for state construction projects.

In addition to following the best-available science, the legislation also establishes a grant program to help Minnesota manufacturers complete the required environmental product declarations. This provision will ensure that Minnesota businesses, powered by increasing amounts of carbon-free electricity, will be able to compete for state and federal construction bids requiring materials with lower embodied carbon.

Passing the Buy Clean and Buy Fair Minnesota Act is a critical step in ensuring we create a market where Minnesota can realize the economic and environmental benefits of climate action, and we appreciate Senator Murphy for leading on this bill.

Sincerely,

Craig McDonnell
Managing Director, Industry
Fresh Energy
mcdonnell@fresh-energy.org