

March 15, 2023

Minnesota Senate
Committee on Transportation
Minnesota Senate Building, Rm 1100
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Senate File 2591 - Streamlining the use of right of ways for building transmission lines

Dear Chair Dibble, Senator McEwen, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), I write today in support of SF2591 which allows for a streamlined process for use of the existing right of way for the construction of certain transmission lines. Constrained transmission lines and the time and cost to acquire land, permit, and build new ones are some of the biggest obstacles to the clean energy transition. Streamlining this process by clarifying the use of existing transportation right of ways for the building of transmission infrastructure is low-hanging fruit in making it easier to site these projects.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We work to educate Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy and are committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive. Our business membership is comprised of nearly 50 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state.

We thank Senator McEwen for bringing this bill forward and Chair Dibble for hearing it in committee. This bill will assist in efficiently building out necessary transmission to meet 100% clean energy by 2040. Furthermore, the use of transportation right of way for new transmission infrastructure was highlighted as a way to efficiently expand the transmission of clean energy in Minnesota's Climate Action Framework.¹ By making it easier to site transmission lines, Minnesota will be a more attractive place to build renewable energy projects and help our state reach its goal of decarbonizing our economy by 2050.

Today, almost 58,000 Minnesotans work in clean energy with over 8,200 of those jobs in renewable energy.² Expanding transmission will significantly improve the reliability of the state's congested grid, allow for greater investment in clean energy solutions of all scales, and continue to create good-paying jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for SF2591. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



George Damian
Director of Government Affairs
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¹ Minnesota Climate Action Framework, Page 21: <https://climate.state.mn.us/minnesotas-climate-action-framework>

² 2022 Clean Jobs Midwest Report: <https://www.cleanenergyeconomymn.org/clean-jobs-midwest>