



Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee,

The North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters is a construction labor union representing carpenters, millwrights, floor coverers, lathers, pile drivers, and industrial workers across the state. On behalf of our 12,000 members we express our support for SF 4784 and the ongoing efforts to help streamline and improve the permitting process for large energy infrastructure.

Our members perform both construction and maintenance work across the energy sector. This includes traditional thermal plants, but also increasingly renewable energy generation. The energy sector has provided good pay and benefits for our members and their families including health care and pensions. However, our members' ability to work is dependent on a well functioning permitting system that can advance new projects at a dependable pace.

With the ongoing energy transition and the state's new 100% by 2040 requirement, it is important that we have a permitting system in place that provides an opportunity for meaningful public engagement but doesn't needlessly delay projects or waste public, utility and stakeholder resources with requirements that don't meaningfully improve outcomes. We believe this legislative proposal takes an important step towards accomplishing these goals and will position the Public Utilities Commission well to permit projects that will advance state goals and put our members to work.

Thank you Senator Frentz for bringing forward this important piece of legislation and we would encourage members of the Committee to support it.

Sincerely,

Richard Kolodziejewski
Director of Government Affairs
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters