



March 11, 2024

Dear Chair Frentz and members of the Committee:

The American Clean Power Association (ACP) and Clean Grid Alliance (CGA) appreciate the opportunity to comment on SF 4784, which is a comprehensive package of reforms that have been overviewed by industry, utilities, and NGOs to advance the clean energy transition in Minnesota.

ACP is a national trade association representing a broad range of businesses in clean energy, including wind energy, solar energy and transmission line developers.

CGA is a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul that works across nine states in the upper Midwest. CGA's membership consists of wind and solar developers, manufacturers, and nonprofit clean energy advocacy organizations. CGA's goal is to advance renewable energy development opportunities across the region.

CGA and ACP would like to express our support for SF 4784 and the substantial time savings it would implement for Minnesota's energy permitting process. We would like to highlight three key reforms found in the bill:

- This bill would allow designated PUC staff to determine when a permit application is complete rather than requiring an order from the commissioners, saving applicants up to 60 days.
- The bill also exempts all wind and solar projects from Certificate of Need Requirements, emphasizing that all new wind and solar will be constructed to meet our new Renewable Energy and Carbon-Free standards.
- Finally, the bill moves permitting for wind, solar, and storage under one clear-cut standard review process, demonstrating that renewables are the future of our grid and should no longer be considered "alternative" sources of energy. Streamlining our permitting processes into one clear method is a green light for developers to bring new business to the state.

These reforms will be essential to the efficient permitting of both the transmission and generation that will be needed to reach Minnesota's 100% carbon free standard. The collaboration of the permitting reform stakeholder group that generated these ideas was an unprecedented and cross-cutting effort worthy of legislative follow-through; CGA and ACP respectfully ask that the committee move favorably on SF 4784, demonstrating your support for ongoing clean energy development across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Madelyn Smerillo".

Madelyn Smerillo
Regional Policy Manager
Clean Grid Alliance

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Erika Kowall".

Erika Kowall
Central States Director
American Clean Power Association