



March 11, 2024

Dear Members of the Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce representing more than 6,300 businesses and more than half a million employees throughout Minnesota, we appreciate the opportunity to provide some commentary on Senator Frentz's SF 4784.

The bill is intended to correct burdensome state permitting issues for wind, solar, energy storage, and transmission projects. These issues are more relevant than ever due to the state's impending carbon-free by 2040 mandate, with initial benchmarks coming up as soon as 2030.

The Chamber appreciates the acknowledgement that permitting is a barrier to the completion of critical projects in Minnesota as the cost, length, and uncertainty of our process have long been a source of concern for the business community.

In February, the Minnesota Chamber Foundation released a report on streamlining Minnesota's environmental permitting process. The report compares our permitting process to other benchmark states, quantifies the economic impact of permitting, and identifies actionable strategies that can be taken to improve the process while still maintaining our environmental standards.

The full report and a summary document can be found here: www.mnchamber.com/permitting. As SF 4784 moves forward, the Chamber hopes that the same approach can be taken to permitting reform for economic development projects and other industries.

Sincerely,

Brian Cook
Director, Energy and Elections Policy