

March 4, 2024

RE: SF 4784

Senator Nick Frentz, Chair
Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate
St. Paul, MN

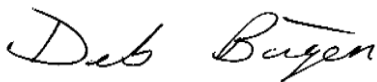
Dear Senator Frentz:

On behalf of Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) and our 25 municipal electric utility members in Minnesota, we offer support for SF 4784.

As Minnesota and other states move towards a more geographically and technologically diverse, intermittent, and distributed energy portfolio, more transmission and generation resources will need to be built. This endeavor will be taxing on both utilities and the state agencies who oversee the permitting of transmission and generation. MRES believes that SF 4784 does a good job of alleviating some of the regulatory burden on electric utilities and streamlines the regulatory process. It also allows for better management of the different state agency roles and streamlines the process for the state agencies. Finally, the bill also carefully balances streamlining the process with protection of landowner rights and opportunities to participate in the process, which has always been a concern for MRES.

Therefore, MRES would like to thank Chair Frentz for allowing us to comment, and we urge support for this bill.

Sincerely,



Deb Birgen
Vice-President, Government Relations