
March 20, 2024

Minnesota Senate

Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 4784 – Minnesota Energy Infrastructure Permitting Act

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Committee,

Citizens' Climate Lobby Minnesota (CCL MN) is a non-partisan, non-profit volunteer driven advocacy organization working to advance common ground climate, clean energy and conservation solutions. I write today on behalf of our 13 chapters and thousands of volunteers across Minnesota to support Senate File 4784, the Minnesota Energy Infrastructure Permitting Act. In order to reduce emissions at the speed and scale required, clean energy permitting reform that will increase supply, protect our environment and allow community voices to be heard is needed. We believe the Minnesota Energy Infrastructure Act accomplishes these expectations.

Minnesotans need energy in the form of both power and heat that is clean, affordable, reliable and secure. At the same time energy demand, and especially electrical demand, is forecasted to significantly increase requiring expanded generation, transmission and distribution capacity. The current permitting system that has evolved is not capable to move at the speed and scale required to transform our energy systems to achieve an equitable carbon-neutral economy. The Minnesota Energy Infrastructure Act is a large step in the right direction.

Citizens' Climate Lobby is a national organization that talks to every office in Congress seeking to build on our shared values and find common ground political solutions. In turn CCL MN engages with our MN senators and representatives. We are aware of bipartisan interest in permitting reform at the federal level and encourage the Minnesota Legislature to also compromise to find bipartisan solutions. Permitting reform is needed at all levels of government. Advancing the Minnesota Energy Infrastructure Permitting Act on a bipartisan basis would send a powerful signal across our entire state.

Sincerely,

Greg Jason

CCL MN Statewide Team Leader