



AN ALLETE COMPANY

ALLETE / MN Power
30 W Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

February 5, 2025

RE: Senate File 486 (Supplemental energy assistance appropriation)

On behalf of Minnesota Power, we write in strong support for SF486, a bill which provides critical financial support to complement Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program (EAP) and the income-qualified Minnesotans that it helps. We urge the committee to vote yes on today's bill.

Minnesota Power is an investor-owned utility that has been headquartered in Duluth for more than a century, serving 150,000 customers across a 26,000 square mile service territory. Nearly one-third of the residential households we serve could qualify for energy assistance or other income-based programs. We serve some of the most economically challenged and rural communities in the state, many with a high senior-citizen population, so affordability is an important component in providing electric service.

We offer some of the most robust affordability programs in the state and work with customers on payment plans that best fit their budgets. Like many other utility service providers, we coordinate closely with local EAP providers which help qualifying households pay their energy bills, repair or replace broken heating systems, and assess eligibility for fee exemptions. We also work with United Ways' First Call program and Salvation Army's HeatShare program to provide emergency utility services for households in need.

For these reasons, we ask that you support SF486 to further enhance energy assistance for low-income families we are proud to serve. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

Zach Martin
Government Affairs Manager
ALLETE / MN Power