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The Honorable Nick Frentz
Chair, Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3109
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Frentz and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns regarding Senate File 2018.

Minnesota's 100 percent carbon-free electricity law was adopted in 2023 and established a long-range regulatory framework for electricity generation. This framework puts Minnesota on a clear path to a clean electric future while building in appropriate flexibility for regulators and utilities to address affordability, reliability and other public policy needs. At the core of this regulatory framework is technology neutrality – the 100 percent law contains no carve outs or exceptions for particular generation sources, instead providing a simple, clear policy signal with appropriate discretion for regulators to conduct necessary technical analysis and evaluation of the many other needs and services our electric system is depended on to provide.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission currently has an open docket to consider policy questions like the ones posed by this bill, and Fresh Energy firmly believes that the Commission is the appropriate venue for this discussion. Allowing Minnesota's well-established utility regulatory process to function as intended ensures consistency and fairness across utilities, regions and customer classes while preserving regulatory certainty for utilities and other energy stakeholders. Senate File 2018 would usurp this process, creating a deeply problematic precedent that makes Minnesota's regulatory environment less clear, less predictable, and less consistent.

For these reasons, we recommend that members oppose Senate File 2018.

Sincerely,

Justin Fay
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