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The Honorable Nick Frentz
Chair, Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue West, Room 3109
Saint 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 2710.

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. Maintaining a sustainable and reasonable approach to the disposal of wood waste, including and especially unavoidable wood waste from invasive species management and storm debris, and how that issue should interact with the electric system was anticipated in the flexible design of the 100 percent law.

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 2710 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 2710.

Sincerely,

Allen Gleckner
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