



408 Saint Peter Street, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55102

PHONE 651 225 0878
EMAIL info@fresh-energy.org
WEBSITE fresh-energy.org

April 2, 2025

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 2926.

As we continue the work of decarbonizing Minnesota's economy, we are going to need new and innovative sources of carbon free energy to meet a variety of specialized needs. This is especially true for heavy industry, where the need for continuous, reliable source energy for applications with extremely high thermal loads is a unique and critical challenge. Hydrogen is one promising solution that can produce energy without emitting carbon dioxide when combusted. Different methods of producing hydrogen, however, do emit widely disparate levels of carbon pollution.

Senate File 2926 would fund a study on geologic hydrogen, encompassing a suite of hydrogen types including white, gold, and orange hydrogen. Geologic hydrogen is hydrogen that is found naturally occurring underground. As with all types of hydrogen, there are no emissions from combustion. However, there are real questions to explore and answer regarding the safety, environmental, and community impacts of the processes that would be used for extraction, transportation, and storage of geologic hydrogen in Minnesota.

While Fresh Energy is intrigued by the possibility of geologic hydrogen as one possible source to meet our future hydrogen demand, we believe strongly that any study would need to carefully evaluate all of the potential impacts of geologic hydrogen extraction, including:

- Environmental impacts beyond groundwater management
- Health and safety implications of extraction, transportation, and storage of mined hydrogen
- Other likely and potential impacts, positive and negative, on communities in the region

Geologic hydrogen has potential for Minnesota, both as a source for cleaner energy and as an economic development opportunity. However, it comes with risks and impacts that policymakers and affected communities must fully understand before considering future development.

For these reasons, we recommend that members support Senate File 2926, amended to address the above concerns.

Sincerely,

Margaret Cherne-Hendrick
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Fresh Energy
Cherne-hendrick@fresh-energy.org