COOPERATIVE ENERGY FUTURES

Apr 28, 2026

Re: Cooperative Energy Futures support for Senate SF 4504; Energy Assistance Program provisions.

Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF) is a democratically run, renewable energy cooperative that focuses on low to moderate-income communities and views energy through the lens of energy democracy. CEF currently has over 1,300 members and we have about 13MWs of community solar gardens operating, a low-income energy efficiency program, a low-income residential solar program, and we are developing a geothermal program.

CEF is writing in support of the Energy Assistance Program language in SF 4504 (Article 1, Section 3, Subdivision 15). Although our desire is that the program be funded at the originally requested $40M, we believe that the appropriated $15M is crucial for low-income residents of Minnesota. Being able to afford utility services is not an option for anyone who desires a stable life and now, with a worsening economy and rapidly rising utility bills, this money is needed more than ever.

We also greatly appreciate the language in the bill that prevents utility shut offs, allows more low-income residents to access energy assistance programs and funds existing infrastructure and service providers.

We appreciate all the hard work the Senate Energy Committee has done to bring this bill this far.

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