



CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA

April 30, 2026

RE: SF4504 (Frentz)

Chair Marty and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Conservation Minnesota urges your support for SF4504 (Frentz) and the critical investments this bill makes in Minnesota's clean energy future. This legislation brings us closer to meeting our 2040 clean energy standard by using the Renewable Development Account to support efforts in electrification and decarbonization of the energy sector.

This bill includes funding for several geothermal projects, including at Macalester College and the Como Park Zoo, which provide heating and cooling at a reliable baseload through residual heat from the ground. It also further supports microgrid research at the University of St. Thomas, which explores the future of distributed energy and provides vital job training to the workers who will advance our electrification goals. Lastly, it provides a kickstart to the development of a Minnesota-made green ammonia, which will provide a cleaner input for our farmers by utilizing residual wind energy, and promote work and growth in greater Minnesota.

While this spending alone would be worthy of your vote, there are several other policy changes in this bill which will greatly benefit Minnesotans. Through an expansion of the low-income home energy assistance program, also called LIHEAP, it provides critical assistance to Minnesotans facing increasing utility bills. Enabling utilities to offer service via thermal energy network unlocks a crucial piece of the carbon-free puzzle, allowing for neighborhood-scale electrification and increasing access to these clean energy resources by providing transition services at scale.

As the importance of clean, reliable, and affordable energy alternatives becomes increasingly apparent, we see these as important investments into present and future solutions. We thank Chair Frentz and the Senate Energy Committee for putting together a strong omnibus bill that recognizes both the needs and the opportunities for our energy system and strongly support SF4504 (Frentz).

Sincerely,
Nels Paulsen
Policy Director
nels@conservationminnesota.org

James Lehner
Policy Associate
james@conservationminnesota.org