



Re: HF9, February 9, 2025

Chair Swedzinski and members of the House Energy, Finance and Policy Committee,

The DFL Environmental Caucus has been a sanctioned community caucus by the DFL since 2015. Our mission is to educate and mobilize the citizens of Minnesota to address the climate crisis and to protect, preserve, and restore the natural environment. We write in opposition to HF 9 which we believe would be detrimental to our state's efforts for a successful transition to carbon free energy.

HF 9 dramatically weakens Minnesota's 2040 100% Carbon-free law.

The provisions in Section 2 make it too easy for an electric utility to repeatedly extend the need to comply with the standard for another 3 years by raising their rates. The Public Utility Commission is already able to delay implementation under Minn Stat. 216B.1691 Subd. 2b. Simply stated, we do not have another 3, 6 or more years to reduce emissions to prevent the worst climate impacts. We have the technology to meet the 100% carbon-free goals by 2040. All that is lacking is the political will.

HR9 lifts the long-standing moratorium on new nuclear power.

Minnesota does not need nor can we afford new nuclear power plants. We have abundant wind and solar potential that offers much lower cost energy when partnered with smart grids, high efficiency transmission lines, and storage. Nuclear projects in other states have proven to take too long to permit and build at a much higher cost than solar and wind. We do not produce the fuel needed for nuclear reactors or have a place to store the waste safely for hundreds of thousands of years.

HR9 prevents unused retired power plants from being demolished.

This blocks an enormous opportunity to use the land for clean renewable energy. Consider what is happening at the site of the retired Sherco plant in Becker, MN. The large solar project under construction at this location is expected to contribute about \$240 million to their economy. Furthermore, these fossil fuels based power plants are often placed in areas that have disproportionately dealt with the impacts of living near these operations. Residents deserve to see these sites decontaminated and repurposed for beneficial uses.

HR9 favors expensive, inefficient carbon capture and sequestration.

To single out this practice as a priority method is not needed and may actually work against other solutions that would have added benefits for Minnesotans. Reducing the use of costly fossil fuels is a win-win for our environment and our health.

Sincerely,

The DFLEC Executive Committee dflenvironmentalcaucus@gmail.com dflenvironment.org