

Testimony on HF787

To: Chairman Chris Swedzinski and Members of the Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

Thank you for inviting feedback on HF7897. I urge you to oppose this bill in order to safeguard and strengthen Minnesota's economy and financial health.

JOBS. Local, in-state, solar and wind energy creates many more jobs than imported energy. See [Stanford University's Minnesota Plan for 100% clean energy](#).

TAXES. More and better Minnesota jobs fund the taxes that you - the legislature – allocate to ensure and enhance our business environment. State-based employment grows tax revenue that funds infrastructure maintenance, and improvements. Growing in-state jobs means more tax revenue to ensure good roads, water management, emergency services, social services, health, education, transportation, and the employability of residents.

In short, in-state energy jobs means more tax revenue to sustain our physical and social infrastructure. Better infrastructure attracts and supports businesses, institutions, and residents in economic and social productivity.

INVESTMENT. HF787 would reduce economic investment in Minnesota that is rapidly modernizing our energy sector. By undercutting technological advancement and the transition to lower-cost solar and wind energy and energy storage, HF787 keeps Minnesota in the “Dinosaur Fuels Age” when the better economic investment is to transition to less expensive, cleaner, healthier, free-to-harvest, much less risky and polluting clean energy.

EMPLOYMENT and REVENUE STABILITY. The existing law requires transition from fossil fuel energy to renewable energy encourages long-term investments in safe, clean, long-term Minnesota jobs. More sun and wind energy increases job and tax revenue stability.

ELECTRICITY RATES. Solar and wind energy does not require ongoing mining of coal or uranium, drilling and fracking for oil and gas, costly management and remediation of toxic pollution, and risks and costs of harm, security services, lawsuits, etc. Instead, solar and wind power are much cheaper per kilowatt hour – benefiting ratepayers. [For Data: [NREL's 2024 Electricity Annual Technology Baseline](#).]

VOTE NO. Please maintain existing law that modernizes and localizes energy production, creates many more jobs, increases tax revenue, sustains health and our quality business environment, encourages entrepreneurship and investment in our state, modernizes our electricity sources, and lowers costs for our businesses, government, and residents.

Thank you, Tina Clarke, Community Resilience Consultant

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