



CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA

February 11, 2025

Chair Swedzinski and Members of the House Energy Committee:

On behalf of the Conservation Minnesota members in all of Minnesota's 87 counties, congratulations on your appointment to one of the best committees in the Minnesota Legislature. The policy and fiscal decisions made in this committee not only impact all Minnesotans, but also have national and global impacts, and we look forward to a productive biennium.

Conservation Minnesota has been active in helping shape past decisions of this committee, especially those decisions impacting Minnesota's 100% carbon free energy by 2040 law. The 100% law has made Minnesota a global clean energy leader. We worry that some of the proposals found within HF9 (Swedzinski) could negatively impact the 100% law.

One of the strongest reasons we supported the 100% law was because of the offramps built into the underlying policy. The 100% law was written in a way to allow for modifications or delay of the 100% carbon free standard if the Public Utilities Commission finds it in the public interest to modify or delay the standard, particularly if there is uncertainty about the reliability or affordability of energy. This offramp policy gave us confidence that Minnesotans would not have to sacrifice their need for reliable and affordable clean energy.

Some of the policies contained with HF9 do not necessarily improve reliable and affordable energy for most Minnesotans. Incentivizing fossil fuels does not help Minnesotans transition to cleaner energy choices, and the clean energy transition is already underway across the state.

Local communities and local workers are already embracing the clean energy transition, and preventing the redevelopment of retired fossil fuel generating plants will harm the local communities and local workers from fully benefiting from the clean energy transition.

Finally, the repeal of the nuclear moratorium adds uncertainty to the affordability of energy in Minnesota. Recent new nuclear generation construction has proven to be very costly and there are concerns about the burden on Minnesota ratepayers. Additionally, we share concerns with the Prairie Island Indian Community about the long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel.

Thanks for allowing us to share some of our thoughts on HF9 and we look forward to continuing the discussion about comprehensive energy policy this session.

Sincerely,

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