

January 21, 2025

Chairman Swedzinski, Vice Chairman Murphy, and Members of the House Energy Finance and Policy Committee, I wish to thank you for allowing Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA) to submit written testimony in support of H.F. 9. My name is Chris Ventura, and I am the Executive Director of Consumer Energy Alliance-Midwest.

On behalf of CEA, I write to share our strong support of H.F. 9 that has been introduced by Rep. Swedzinski. We believe H.F. 9 is a positive step toward ensuring Minnesotans will have access to affordable, reliable, and cleaner sources of energy now and into the future – especially considering the reliability challenges facing states within the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) footprint.

Founded in 2006, CEA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing virtually every sector of the U.S. economy – from the iron and steel industry to truckers, airlines, agriculture, labor unions, restaurants, chemical manufacturers, small businesses, and families all across the nation. Our members support a rational, all-of-the-above energy policy that utilizes all of our domestic natural resources – both traditional and renewable – while ensuring continued progress in protecting our shared environment.

Since our founding, CEA and its members have strongly supported actions that thoughtfully advance our nation towards a cleaner, more environmentally responsible energy future. We believe that responsible solutions should always consider the needs of consumers while leveraging and supporting the development of state-of-the-art technologies to improve our environmental stewardship and aid in the continued reduction of all emissions – including smog-forming and greenhouse gases.

With this in mind, we wish to call out three specific items within H.F. 9 that are a positive step toward ensuring Minnesotans will have access to affordable, reliable, and cleaner sources of energy.

Currently, MISO projects a devastating [4.7 gigawatt](#) electricity shortfall by 2028 – and that's [after](#) accounting for planned power generation additions. Coupled with the 100 percent clean energy mandates passed and signed into law by Governor Walz during the prior legislative session, this makes it imperative that Minnesota utilize every tool available to ensure families and businesses have access to the vital electricity which they rely on each and every day.

This means it is necessary to encourage all forms of power generation. H.F. 9 does this by ensuring hydroelectric-generated power, regardless of when it is constructed and its generating capacity, can help meet Minnesota's clean energy goals.

Additionally, H.F. 9 repeals Minnesota's nuclear moratoria which was enacted in 1994.

Nuclear energy remains the country's [largest provider](#) of carbon-free electricity – electricity which is a valuable baseload resource. In fact, nuclear energy is so important to reducing carbon emissions that the U.S. Department of Energy estimated that we will need 200 gigawatts of new nuclear power by 2050, and they have set [deployment targets](#) to add 35 gigawatts of new capacity by 2035.

Lastly, H.F. 9 also looks to the future by supporting the development and deployment of carbon capture and sequestration technologies. This is important to more than just the power generating sector, but also to Minnesota's agricultural community.

For example, safely capturing, transporting, and storing the CO2 emissions from Minnesota's ethanol plants will ensure that Minnesota's ethanol industry will be able to decrease the carbon intensity of the ethanol that they produce, allowing our producers to compete for new markets. As a result, it will also ensure Minnesota's corn farmers will be able to market their harvests locally, as ethanol production in 2023 generated \$6.6 billion of economic activity across the state, which includes \$1.3 billion of income for Minnesota residents according to the [University of Minnesota Extension](#).

The simple fact is that Minnesota is moving toward a cleaner energy future. And, part of moving to this cleaner energy future requires ensuring that families and businesses across Minnesota have reliable access to the energy they need at the most affordable rates possible. This is why we support the provisions of H.F. 9 as outlined above – increasing the carbon-free, permanent power that is produced by hydroelectric and nuclear power generating stations along with supporting the future of carbon capture technologies.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to comment on H.F. 9. In the event the committee may have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cventura@consumerenergyalliance.org.