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Honorable Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee Members
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

February 15, 2021

Re: Support for HFXXXX (Acomb), Next Generation Climate Act

Dear Chair Long and members of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

I am J. Drake Hamilton, the Senior Director of Science Policy at Fresh Energy. Fresh Energy's mission is to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies.

Fresh Energy supports the Next Generation Climate Act, which updates Minnesota's statewide greenhouse gas emissions reductions across all economic sectors producing these emissions, to reflect current science. In its bipartisan passage in 2007 of the Next Generation Energy Act, the legislature set state greenhouse gas reduction goals. Representative Acomb's bill updates those goals to match the latest climate science. Importantly, the bill would set the Minnesota emissions reduction standard to be at least the following amount compared to the level of state emissions in 2005: "by at least 45 percent by 2030."

Fresh Energy reminds the committee that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees C (www.ipcc.ch) was released publicly on October 8, 2018. The Special Report was written by 91 authors residing in 40 countries, and contained over 6,000 cited scientific references. The IPCC is the world's leading body for assessing the science related to climate change, its impacts and potential future risks, and possible response options. That Special Report is clear: "Limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius depends on greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)...where lower GHG emissions in 2030 lead to a higher chance of keeping peak warming to 1.5 degrees C." That means: "global net anthropogenic CO2 emissions decline by about 45%...by 2030...reaching net zero around 2050."

Fresh Energy also supports the legislation's update in Minnesota's bipartisan climate standards to reflect current climate science by requiring Minnesota governmental actions to be consistent with these updated state greenhouse gas reductions goals, and to protect overburdened communities from disproportionate impacts. As well, Fresh Energy supports the requirement in the legislation that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency increase the frequency of a report, to report every year to the Legislature, as well as recommending whether any changes should be made due to new climate science. Fresh Energy finally supports the legislation's updated Minnesota standards to require economy-wide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to reach net zero by the year 2050.

Fresh Energy notes the importance in leading the United States with Minnesota's bipartisan climate legislation that was passed and signed into law by Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007. Please support

this new legislation, HF XXXX, to make vital updates in Minnesota's economy-wide, science-based climate standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support.

Sincerely,

J. Drake Hamilton
Senior Director, Science Policy
Fresh Energy