



MINNESOTA PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION

Affiliate of the United Association
Composed of Journeyman and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry
Of the United States and Canada
State Federation of Labor – A.F.L.-C.I.O.

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March 17, 2021

Representative Jamie Long, Chair
House Energy and Climate Finance and Policy

Dear Chair Long and committee members,

Duluth-Detroit Lakes
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #11

Minneapolis-St. Cloud
Plumbers
Local #15

Minneapolis-St. Cloud
Pipefitters
Local #539

Minneapolis-St. Paul
Sprinkler Fitters
Local #417

Minneapolis
Gas Workers
Local #340

Moorhead
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #300

Rochester
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #6

St. Paul – Mankato
Plumbers
Local #34

St. Paul – Mankato
Pipefitters
Local #455

Virginia
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #589

Road Sprinkler Fitters
Central Region
Local #669

I submit this letter in support of H.F. 239, the Natural Gas Innovation Act, on behalf of the Minnesota Pipe Trades Association. The Minnesota Pipe Trades Association is an umbrella organization made up of 11 Local Unions located throughout the State of Minnesota. These affiliated Unions represent nearly 10,000 men and women working in all areas of the plumbing, pipe fitting, mechanical and fire protection industries.

Many of our members build and maintain natural gas infrastructure. Natural gas utilities and the natural gas system have provided high-quality jobs for decades, and we are excited to work together on a proposal that would simultaneously protect and create jobs while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We especially appreciate the focus of the bill on economic development and job creation. The bill requires that the Public Utilities Commission find that an innovation plan will promote economic development before they can approve it. This is entirely appropriate because resources like biogas, renewable natural gas, renewable hydrogen, and renewable ammonia have significant potential to create jobs. The American Biogas Council estimates that fully developing Minnesota's biogas resources would directly create 11,250 construction jobs and 900 long-term positions.

The Natural Gas Innovation Act would create opportunities to use existing gas infrastructure, and the existing skills of pipefitters, to build a clean energy future. Representative Stephenson's bill recognizes that the state's natural gas infrastructure and the skills of our members are assets to be used to transition to a decarbonized energy system. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to pass the H.F. 239.

Sincerely,

David M. Ybarra II
President, Minnesota Pipe Trades Association