



March 15, 2021

Honorable Zack Stephenson  
Chairman, House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
517 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Future Fuels Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Stephenson,

The Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas (RNG Coalition) writes to convey our support for the Future Fuels Act, which was developed by a strong coalition of organizations and demonstrates broad support of a technology-neutral portfolio approach to decarbonize transportation fuels in Minnesota. Beyond lowering the carbon emissions in transportation fuels, it will boost the state's economy and improve public health, especially for historically disadvantaged populations such as low-income and people of color. This policy is a win-win-win for the economy, the environment, and the people of Minnesota.

The RNG Coalition represents and provides public policy advocacy and education for the Renewable Natural Gas (RNG or Biomethane) industry across North America. Our organization is comprised of over 280 members—cities, counties, airports, ports, municipalities, colleges, universities, and leading companies operating in each sector of the industry—including producers of greater than 95% of all RNG produced in the United States and Canada.

The creation of a Clean Fuels Program would provide Minnesota with an excellent opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation fuel sources while simultaneously improving public health, providing green jobs, diversifying fuel supply, and fostering the improved management of existing waste streams by generating demand for RNG and Renewable Hydrogen (RH<sub>2</sub>) derived from RNG. According to data from the California Air Resources Board, RNG is the lowest carbon fuel commercially available today. While conventional diesel and gasoline score at 100 and 90 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per megajoule of energy respectively, RNG scores as low as -500.<sup>1</sup> According to a 2017 study by the University of California - Riverside, ultra-low emission heavy-duty natural gas engines fueled by RNG test more than 99.8 percent clean.<sup>2</sup> This translates into significant reductions in respiratory ailments such as asthma and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.arb.ca.gov/fuels/lcfs/fuelpathways/pathwaytable.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ucrtoday.ucr.edu/48342>

bronchitis, lung cancer, and premature death—particularly in our most vulnerable populations including children and those living with lung or cardiovascular disease.

The increased development of RNG can help Minnesota meet additional policy objectives by capturing and converting for productive, every-day use methane that would otherwise be flared (combusted and wasted) or escape into the atmosphere as a highly potent short-lived climate pollutant from dairies, wastewater treatment plants, landfills and anaerobic digestion facilities at municipal solid waste and livestock operations. The development of RNG production facilities foster improved management of existing organic waste streams thereby reducing any air, soil, and water impacts.

In addition to the environmental benefits, there are substantial economic benefits realized with the increased development of RNG. According to a study conducted by ICF, RNG facilities attract between \$10-\$100 million in capital investment per project and the creation of up to 173 direct and indirect jobs per project.<sup>3</sup>

The Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas would like to acknowledge the hard work and due diligence you have demonstrated in consideration of this legislation. We are pleased to support the Future Fuels Act and look forward to continuing working with you to achieve the adoption of a Clean Fuels Program in Minnesota. Please feel free to contact me directly at (302) 757-0866 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/

Sam Lehr  
Manager of Sustainability & Markets Policy  
Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas

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<sup>3</sup>[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53a09c47e4b050b5ad5bf4f5/t/59077544ebbd1ad192d13ff6/1493660998766/ICF\\_RNG+Jobs+Study\\_FINAL+with+infographic.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53a09c47e4b050b5ad5bf4f5/t/59077544ebbd1ad192d13ff6/1493660998766/ICF_RNG+Jobs+Study_FINAL+with+infographic.pdf)