



408 Saint Peter Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55102

PHONE 651 225 0878

EMAIL info@fresh-energy.org

WEBSITE fresh-energy.org

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The Honorable Jamie Long
Chair, Minnesota House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee
517 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Long and committee members,

Fresh Energy is a nearly 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on House File XX (Lislegard).

Fresh Energy supports the Buy Clean and Buy Fair Minnesota Act. Climate change is an existential threat facing Minnesota, and it is critical that we deploy every tool at our disposal as we rise to meet this challenge. This includes critical and careful review of the lifecycle carbon impacts of the materials we use in public works projects. The choices we make when sourcing and procuring materials such as structural steel, carbon steel rebar, solar photovoltaics and energy storage technology have potentially significant emissions impacts.

Perhaps even more significantly, this bill establishes a framework for core Minnesota industries to measure, refine, demonstrate and market Minnesota-made products and materials as part of a comprehensive strategy for meeting the climate crisis. Responding to climate change and climate impacts will necessitate significant investments in Minnesota's infrastructure in the coming years. This is a unique once-in-a-generation opportunity for Minnesota industries to both contribute to and benefit from such investments, and we believe this bill does a good job of laying the groundwork for this work to come.

Climate change is going to have profound impacts on Minnesota. While it's often easy to become distracted by the challenges, there is also going to be opportunity. The Buy Clean and Buy Fair Minnesota Act is a good start toward maximizing these opportunities, and we are pleased to offer our support for this forward-thinking legislation.

Sincerely,

Justin Fay
Lead Director, Public Affairs
Fresh Energy