



April 6, 2021

Members of the Minnesota House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership coalition of organizations and the members they represent, thank you for your incredible work this legislative session considering dozens of bills to move Minnesota toward equitably meeting our greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals.

The International Panel on Climate Change tells us we have until 2030 to reduce our state's emissions by 45%. Unfortunately, the most recent report from the MPCA using 2018 data shows us that while we are moving the right direction in some categories, we are going backwards overall.

HF 2110 is filled with policy that moves us forward and that we applaud, including:

- **Updating MN's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals** and benchmarks to meet needs outlined by current science today: net-zero emissions by 2050. This is critical because the infrastructure that gets us to 80% reductions may not necessarily be able to take us all the way to zero. We must avoid investing in dead-end pathways that can't help us get to the final goal.
- **Moving the state to 100% clean electricity** production as fast as possible. We are particularly glad to see language that would remove the Hennepin County Energy Recovery Center from counting as renewable energy.
- **Making win-win investments such as Solar on Schools and Rebuild Right** that both reduce GHG emissions and energy bills.
- **Cleaning our transportation sector with investments in electric cars and buses.**
- **Reducing emissions from existing buildings and promoting beneficial electrification.**

We also appreciate the bill's efforts to explore decarbonization of the natural gas sector with the Natural Gas Innovation Act. Provisions bringing this issue within the purview of the Public Utilities Commission are a positive step. However, the short timeline for adequately addressing the climate crisis requires a comprehensive plan to meet our emission reduction needs.

- 1) **Putting the right goals into statute motivates the right action.** Innovation is driven by policy. We saw this with the Next Generation Energy Act in 2007, meeting its goals for achieving 25% clean electricity by 2025, seven years early. Yet goals for decarbonizing the natural gas sector – also critical to meeting our GHG emission reduction needs – have not been put into statute and are not present in this bill.

- 2) **Manure lagoons from confined feed-lot operations create significant issues for water and air quality in communities across Minnesota.** We appreciate that provisions in this omnibus bill seek to limit growth of these factory farm operations for the purpose of renewable natural gas. However, we would like to highlight that using manure as a renewable fuel source disregards the inherent environmental harms that manure lagoons produce, and this technology would not mitigate the water, land, and air pollution that negatively impacts communities across our state. We should seek to avoid this type of industrial farming and pollution through more sustainable agricultural and energy processes, instead of utilizing the pollution from confined feed-lot operations as a feedstock in supposed clean energy policy.

The awesome future we deserve requires that the scale and pace of our policy and our collective investments be designed to meet our goals. Thank you for your vision and dedication to this aim.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Morse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Morse
Executive Director