



Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

To: House Climate and Energy Committee Members
From: Ellen Anderson, Climate Program Director, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Re: HF2110 - Omnibus Climate and Energy Bill

Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your service to the people of Minnesota during this challenging time and thank you for the opportunity to share our views on HF 2110, the House Climate and Energy Omnibus bill. Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) is a nonprofit organization with almost 50 years of experience using law and science to protect Minnesota's environment and the health of its people.

We are focused on achieving equitable climate solutions that provide benefits to all Minnesotans, with cleaner air, clean energy jobs, and protection of our natural resources. Minnesota is one of the fastest-warming states in America. In northern Minnesota, early ice-out dates and warmer winters are hurting the economy and wild rice crops and threatening iconic Minnesota wildlife like moose and loons. In southern Minnesota, extreme rains and increasingly frequent hailstorms are harming farmers and the communities that depend on farming.

In urban neighborhoods suffering from poor air quality and extreme summer heat, climate change poses direct risks to human health. In short, climate change threatens every corner of Minnesota and costs every Minnesotan.

In 2007, Minnesotans led the nation in adopting science-based standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The 2007 Next Generation Energy Act (NGEA) passed nearly unanimously and was a bipartisan accomplishment. Now it's time to update the law and strengthen its impact. We need to follow the science that tells us we must move faster. Additionally, we know the NGEA needs to be strengthened to ensure it is implemented across all sectors of the economy, because Minnesota has not met our 2015 targets and we are not on track to meet the next target of 30% reduction by 2025.

For these reasons, we strongly support the Next Generation Climate Act, (HF 1428), and appreciate Chair Long incorporating these provisions into the Omnibus Climate and Energy bill. The bill will update the GHG targets, following current science, and ensure that the state government is accountable for implementing these goals.

- The language on line 121.13 updates the science-based targets in 216H.02 to require Minnesota reduce GHG emissions at least 45% from 2005 levels by 2030, and net zero by 2050. The 30% reduction by 2025 goal remains intact.



Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

- Starting at Line 126.7, the language ensures that greenhouse gas reduction targets will be incorporated into all aspects of state agency activities, and that the Climate Change Subcabinet will report back to you next legislative session with a Climate Transition Plan to incorporate the GHG targets into all aspects of state agency activities, included but not limited to planning, awarding grants, purchasing, regulating, funding, and permitting.
- 127.31 includes appropriations for developing the Climate Transition Plan.

We also strongly support many other aspects of the Omnibus bill.

- We want to ensure that implementation of our climate goals does not disproportionately impact environmental justice communities, and we are very supportive of equity provisions in this and other House bills.
- We strongly support the House version of the 100% Clean Energy bill, to move us significantly forward towards a decarbonized energy system.
- We support the provisions that will enhance Minnesota's leadership on energy efficiency, the fastest, cheapest, and cleanest way to meet carbon reduction goals. This includes the ECO Act, the low income energy conservation programs and pre-weatherization provisions, fuel switching towards electrification, and the ambitious target to cut GHG emissions from energy use in commercial and residential building 50% by 2035.
- We also call out the following bills for their importance:
 - Rebuild Right program
 - Energy Transition Legacy Office establishment
 - Solar in Schools
 - Securitization
 - Minnesota Innovative Finance Authority establishment
 - Energy Storage bill
 - Clean Energy First (House version)

There are many other important provisions and we urge the Committee members to support the entire Omnibus bill. We appreciate the excellent work that has gone into this comprehensive bill that will bring Minnesota closer to an equitable clean energy future that will benefit all of our state's citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Warm regards,

Ellen Anderson

Climate Program Director, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

1919 University Ave W, Suite 515 | Saint Paul, MN 55104
(651) 223-5969