



February 14, 2023

Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee  
593 State Office Building  
St Paul, MN 55155

RE: H.F. 1656 DE1

Dear Chair Acomb and members of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

For more than 150 years, CenterPoint Energy has proudly provided reliable and affordable energy service to Minnesotans. We serve over 900,000 residential and business customers in over 260 communities. CenterPoint Energy offers nation-leading natural gas energy efficiency programs to our customers and a growing portfolio of innovative decarbonization strategies.

CenterPoint Energy supports House File 1656 as amended, which will provide state funding to leverage and unlock competitive and matching grants available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

We look forward to maximizing funding resources that could benefit our customers and appreciate this bill focuses on assisting our community, non-profit, and municipal partners access and compete for IIJA and IRA support.

In addition, CenterPoint Energy is hopeful that at least one, and possibly two, regional hydrogen hub partnerships that include Minnesota will be chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy. We greatly encourage any financial support, or other resources, that could be dedicated to a successful hydrogen hub outcome. Being selected for a hydrogen hub has the potential to provide the state with billions of dollars in new investments, jobs, and economic activity.

We thank the authors and the committee for making state-funded matching and competitive IIJA and IRA grants a priority during this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Jamie Fitzke  
CenterPoint Energy  
Director of Government Affairs, Minnesota