



Rep. Patty Acomb, Chair
MN House Climate and Energy Committee
Re: ALLETE/MN Power position on HF 849 (Hollins)

February 20, 2023

I write today to support Rep. Hollins' HF 849 and appreciate that Rep. Hollins has reintroduced this bill.

For our customers that wish to increase their efficient use of electricity, the home's electric panel can be a surprising roadblock to doing so. As a general rule, the focus of these customers is on the electric appliance they wish to purchase – air source heat pump, electric induction stove, heat pump water heater -- or on the vehicle, an electric vehicle or plug-in hybrid.

But often these customers can run into difficulty when they realize that their home does not have enough electrical capacity to support these electric appliances and charging equipment. Upgrading to a 200-amp electric panel—the standard for full electrification in most single-family homes—can cost thousands of dollars.

This is the barrier that Rep. Hollins is working to reduce through this panel upgrade grant program. We support a reliable, affordable, and equitable clean energy transition, and this bill targets support to removing a barrier for whom this additional cost would be most difficult to bear.

We urge your support for this bill and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Mike Bull, Senior Policy Advisor
to ALLETE/MN Power