

February 28, 2024

Minnesota House of Representatives
Climate and Energy Finance and Policy
State Office Building, Room 200
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 3457 - Deadline established for state agencies to issue permits for large electric power facilities

Dear Chair Acomb, Representative Kraft, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of House File 3457, a bill establishing prompt deadlines for state agencies to issue permits for large electric power facilities. Due to Minnesota's climate and short construction season, even seemingly small delays, when stacked upon each other, can pose significant delays – missing an entire construction season. Speeding the siting and permitting process is one of the keys to ensuring businesses choose to operate in Minnesota and that our state successfully reaches our clean energy goals.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We are focused on educating Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy. Our business membership is comprised of over 60 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state. CEEM stands committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive.

Renewable energy developers across our country are looking for certainty when doing business. Minnesota is competing with other states for these projects – all of which come with investment in local communities and good-paying jobs. As of the third quarter of 2023, total solar investment in Minnesota tops \$2.9 billion¹ while wind energy has invested \$7.4 billion in Minnesota through capital investments.² Implementing clear and concise deadlines to permit these projects will help give businesses the certainty they require.

Today, almost 60,000 Minnesotans work in clean energy, with over 8,700 of those jobs in renewable energy.³ With our state's commitment to 100% by 2040, these numbers will continue to grow as we make Minnesota a better place to do business with common-sense permit reform measures like the one proposed in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for this bipartisan proposal to speed the permitting process. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



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¹ SEIA: Minnesota Solar: <https://www.seia.org/state-solar-policy/minnesota-solar>

² CGA: Minnesota Wind Energy Facts: <https://cleangridalliance.org/minnesota-wind-energy>

³ 2023 Clean Jobs Midwest Report: <https://www.cleanenergyeconomymn.org/clean-jobs-midwest>