

I write in strong opposition to HF 9, which would undermine Minnesota's commitment to developing a 100% clean electricity grid by 2040. Renewables are currently the cheapest form of electricity in many places, including every single county in Minnesota, according to the University of Texas Energy Institute. Beyond the reduction in CO2 emissions, clean electricity also emits no toxic air pollution and is not subject to rising fuel costs, which lead to higher electricity prices.

From my reading, this bill would enable utilities to arbitrarily delay their compliance with the 100% clean electricity law by raising their electricity prices. The bill appears to have an assumption baked into it that fossil fueled electricity is inherently cheaper than clean energy, which is not the case. It also appears to prohibit utilities from taking fossil fueled power plants offline if their electricity is too expensive, regardless of whether or not replacing or removing that plant would actually make their electricity cheaper! We should be allowing our utilities to build the infrastructure they need to reduce emissions and make electricity cheaper, not banning them from doing so!

Finally, directing the state to support carbon capture as a way of reducing emissions would be a waste of taxpayer money. In virtually all cases, it is dramatically more expensive than simply replacing dirty electricity with clean electricity. What it IS useful for is as a way for the fossil fuel industry to claim that we'll somehow be able to continue burning their product forever, just as soon as we pay them huge amounts of money to develop a technology that doesn't exist yet. They do not have the best interests of regular Minnesotans in mind. I urge the committee to vote against HF 9.

Thanks,

Micah Buuck