



Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate

To: House Climate and Energy Policy and Finance Committee

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RE: Testimony in Support of HF 2110 - Omnibus Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Bill

Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate, a network of over 500 Minnesota nurses, doctors, public health experts, and allied health professionals, supports the House Omnibus Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Bill (HF 2110). HF 2110 presents a comprehensive approach to tackling the climate crisis in our state. We must move swiftly to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels in all sectors of our economy and to build programs and infrastructure that support renewable energy. HF 2110 puts Minnesota on a zero-carbon path, which will reduce the downstream health effects of carbon pollution for all Minnesotans. While we support the bill in its entirety, we highlight a few provisions that will improve health by reducing air pollution and creating greater climate equity.

HF 2110 incorporates the Next Generation Climate Act (HF 1428) which aligns Minnesota's GHG reduction targets with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommendations to prevent global warming that exceeds 1.5°C (2.7°F) above pre-industrial levels to prevent the worst effects of climate change, which will fall heavily on socially vulnerable communities such as those living in poverty and agricultural communities. Health outcomes stemming from increases above 1.5°C include increases in heat-related morbidity and mortality and ground-level ozone-related mortality, as well as increases in vector-borne disease and heatwaves amplified by urban heat island effects.

Other provisions in HF 2110 that will help us achieve a healthier carbon-free future include: requiring 100% carbon free electricity by 2040, integrating greenhouse gas emission impacts into all state activities, and requiring utilities to utilize clean energy resources to meet all new energy demands. HF 2110 authorizes and funds critical energy conservation initiatives, including the Energy Conservation and Optimization Act which expands the Conservation Improvement Program to help more Minnesotans reach their energy conservation goals and beneficial electrification for low income communities to begin addressing energy equity issues. The bill promotes solar energy, including a Solar for Schools Program and expanding access to community solar gardens for low income communities.

Provisions in HF 2110 which promote electrification of transportation will reduce climate impacts and air pollution. Deploying electric school buses will protect the health of children

from exposure to toxic diesel fumes. The bill's provision for increased EV charging infrastructure and incentives for EV purchase will also help Minnesota reduce air pollution, especially in low income and communities of color who experience the highest exposure to vehicle pollution.

HF 2110 will help Minnesota move to a carbon-free economy to mitigate climate change and protect human health. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HF 2110.