



CONSERVATION  
MINNESOTA

March 4, 2025

RE: HF 1738 (Swedzinski) Renewable Development Account repealed

Chair Swedzinski and Members of the Energy Finance and Policy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns about HF 1738 (Swedzinski).

As you know, the Renewable Development Account (RDA) has roots going back to mid 1990s. It is my understanding that concerns arose at that time about storing nuclear waste near the Prairie Island Indian Community. The RDA was more or less created to increase the research, creation and expansion of new renewable energy projects with the hope that someday nuclear generation may not be necessary (and therefore new nuclear waste would not be created).

While the Minnesota Legislature has accomplished a lot in the realm of clean energy in the last few years, including allocating RDA funds for new and innovative renewable energy projects, we have yet to accomplish the original goals of the RDA. In fact, with the passing the 100% carbon free by 2040 law, I think value of the RDA is more important today than when it was created 30 years ago.

Compound the above point with the current proposal to repeal the moratorium on building new nuclear generating capacity in the state, and you can see the original goals of the RDA are still unfulfilled. For those reasons we share our concerns today.

We will note that we appreciate Chair Swedzinski's interest in lowering energy costs for Minnesota rate payers and think additional committee attention should be focused on making sure Minnesota electric consumers can get the clean, reliable and affordable energy they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts with you today.

James Lehner  
Policy Associate  
[james@conservationminnesota.org](mailto:james@conservationminnesota.org)

Nels Paulsen  
Policy Director  
[nels@conservationminnesota.org](mailto:nels@conservationminnesota.org)