

January 17, 2023

Minnesota House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee

Attn: Rep. Patty Acomb, Chair

Re: 100% Bill HF 7

In terms of setting standards for Minnesota's electricity sector, the 100% Bill, HF 7, includes hydroelectric power as a renewable energy source. This change from our current Minnesota standard is of concern to me as it relates to social justice. The current standard regards low hydroelectric power- less than 100MW- as renewable. Larger than 100 MW hydro is not considered as renewable.

This new energy bill, HF 7, will regard all hydroelectric power as renewable. The issue here is one of social justice. There are many damaging impacts of large hydroelectric installations to Indigenous peoples in Manitoba such as clear cutting for transmission lines, death and physiological changes of fish, flooding of traditional medicines, methane releases and waterway debris as well as erosion of shorelines and wildlife displacement. The social impacts include forced relocation due to flooding, loss of food sovereignty and security, pollution of drinking water and loss of traditional ways of life and knowledge. All these impacts and more are cited by the WA NI SKA TAN alliance of hydro-impacted communities in Manitoba, Canada. This group is Indigenous-led and focuses on the impact to Northern First Nations lands and peoples.

Minnesota Power relies on large hydroelectric power from Manitoba for a portion of its energy source portfolio and Minnesota Power is my electricity supplier. Due to the environmental and social justice impacts, I think that the energy standard should not be changed to include all hydroelectric power. The 100% Bill should be amended to define renewable energy as less than 100 MW of electricity generation.

Sincerely,

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