

February 13, 2025

House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
Capitol G3
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: HF 8 – Improvement to Permitting in Minnesota

Dear Chair Heintzeman and Committee Members:

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of House File 8 to improve the permitting process in Minnesota. Building on the momentum of last year's successful energy permitting reforms, this bipartisan push represents a crucial next step in making Minnesota a better place to do business. The comprehensive approach will benefit all companies requiring environmental permits, streamlining processes while maintaining Minnesota's high environmental standards.

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 comprises over 70 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.

Our members consistently tell us that permitting uncertainty and delays create significant barriers to business growth and investment in Minnesota. This includes manufacturing energy efficiency equipment, developing clean energy projects, and delivering related products or services. Moving projects forward in a timely, predictable manner is essential to their success and continued investment in our state.

Last year's energy infrastructure reforms demonstrated how thoughtful permitting improvements can unlock economic potential and jobs while preserving environmental protections. Now, by extending similar efficiencies across all economic sectors, this legislation will help create the predictable business environment needed to retain, grow, and attract jobs and investment across Minnesota's entire economy.

As Minnesota positions itself as a leader in the clean energy economy, companies need confidence to predictably and efficiently plan for developing projects, deploying capital, and expanding operations here. Now is a crucial time for new and innovative industries such as Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), the expansion of anaerobic digestion, and the continuation of being a leader in biofuel and biomass-to-energy production. This legislation provides that certainty while maintaining the environmental standards that make Minnesota an attractive place to live and work.

This is not a partisan issue but a practical one about making Minnesota more competitive. By improving permitting efficiency and transparency across all economic sectors, we can better retain homegrown companies while attracting new businesses and investment to our state. Our diverse membership sees this as a critical step toward building a more robust and competitive business environment in Minnesota.

Sincerely,



George Damian
Director of Government Affairs
gdamian@cleanenergyeconomymn.org



Chandra Her
Policy Associate
cher@cleanenergyeconomymn.org