



January 18, 2023

Chair Patty Acomb
Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee
RE: House File 7
593 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Acomb,

Thank you and the Members of the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony in regards to House File 7.

My name is David Larson, and I am the Government Affairs Director for Cooperative Network. We are a two-state trade association of member-owned cooperatives of all kinds located throughout Minnesota & Wisconsin.

We appreciate Representative Long and his co-authors for bringing this important topic in front of the Committee, however, we do have concerns about how it will impact the reliability and affordability of electric service to cooperative members around Minnesota. Current technology for renewable resources cannot be counted on for the full-time generation needs of the state, and they do not offer the baseload capabilities that gas, coal, and/or nuclear generation do for the electric system.

Renewable generation facilities and equipment are a necessary part of the electric system, but forcing an expedited timeline will not only boost costs for Minnesotans, it may also lead to rotating power outages.

Cooperative Network recommends the following for this legislation:

- **Eliminate the renewable energy mandate**, which will cause immediate and future cost and reliability concerns for Minnesotans;
- **Eliminate the compliance milestones years**, which will put Minnesota on a premature timeline;
- **Exclude non-Minnesota generation from compliance**, whose facilities exist entirely out of the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Larson
Government Affairs Director
Cooperative Network

CC: House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee Members