

ENERGY STORAGE AND ENERGY EQUITY

TESTIMONY TO THE MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ENERGY AND CLIMATE FINANCE AND POLICY DIVISION



Ellen Anderson, Executive Director, Energy Transition Lab

Anderson is the Director of the Institute on the Environment's Energy Transition Lab, whose mission is to engage University of Minnesota and external experts to catalyze solutions to rapidly reduce carbon emissions and help create Minnesota's clean energy future. In her career, Anderson spent 18 years in the Minnesota Senate; served as Senior Advisor on Energy and Environment to Governor Mark Dayton; and assisted the state Environmental Quality Board. She also leads the IonE's Impact Goal focused on a carbon-neutral Minnesota and teaches law and renewable energy courses. Anderson holds a B.A. from Carleton College and a J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Minnesota Law School.



Brian Burandt, Vice President Power Supply and Business Development, Connexus Energy

Burandt has more than 20 years of utility experience and is accountable for the power supply of Connexus Energy, the largest customer-owned distribution co-op utility in Minnesota. He ensures that power supply, including distributed generation, meets the current and evolving needs of the membership. Burandt also leads business development, which includes research, strategy, product, and service or venture development of core-related initiatives that benefit members across seven Minnesota counties. He has an MBA from the University of St. Thomas and a Bachelor of Science in Energy Management from Moorhead State University.

Beth Sohlt, Executive Director, Clean Grid Alliance

Sohlt has more than 15 years of experience working with the electric industry. At CGA, she directs work in the areas of technical/transmission planning, state regulatory proceedings, legislative education, and outreach. She holds a seat on the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) Advisory Committee representing the Environmental Sector, and was selected as one of three NGO representatives on the Stakeholder Steering Committee of the Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative. Beth holds a law degree from Hamline University Law School, St. Paul, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.



Dan Foley, CEO, Founder, GlidePath Power - Advanced Energy Solutions

Foley has over 25 years of energy sector experience, particularly in developing, building, owning, and operating traditional and renewable energy projects throughout North America. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Engineering degree from the State University of New York-Buffalo, and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Chicago.

Dr. Cecilia Martinez, Executive Director, Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy (CEED)

Dr. Martinez is the co-founder and Executive Director at the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy, and previously held positions at the University of Delaware, Metropolitan State University and the American Indian Policy Center. She has led a variety of projects to address sustainable development at the local and international levels, and her research and publications are focused on the development of energy and environmental strategies that promote equitable and sustainable policies. Dr. Martinez served on the Climate Action Planning Steering Committee for the City of Minneapolis. She received her B.A. from Stanford University and her Ph.D. from the University of Delaware's College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy.



Jamez Staples, President, Renewable Energy Partners

Staples leads Renewable Energy Partners, a North Minneapolis-based renewable energy developer and certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE). He serves as Co-Chair of the Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) for the City of Minneapolis' Clean Energy Partnership, a White House-recognized program. Staples was named one of 12 national Climate Champions delivering the benefits of clean power to communities of color, and was recognized as one of 40 Under 40 in Energy by Midwest Energy News. He was a Humphrey School of Public Affairs Policy Fellow and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and Innovation from Concordia University.

Dr. Rolf T. Weberg, Executive Director, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota, Duluth

Dr. Weberg assumed leadership of the Natural Resources Research Institute in 2014 after a 25-year career in the R&D Division of the DuPont Company. As Executive Director of NRRRI, he is responsible for the operation, integration and development of the Institute's two research sites and its 120 full time and 40+ part time and student employees. NNRI collaborates with and bridges between University and state stakeholders to define, develop and deliver research solutions balancing the economy, state resources and the environment to foster resilient communities. He holds a B.S. in Chemistry from UMD and a Ph.D. in Inorganic/Organometallic Chemistry from the University of Colorado.



Dr. George Hudak, Initiative Director - Minerals and Metallurgy Initiative, Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRRI)

Dr. Hudak is the Director for the Minerals-Metallurgy-Mining Initiative at the Natural Resources Research Institute. In this role, he oversees the overall strategic plan for the initiative, which includes exploring opportunities for circular economy utilization of metals and mining infrastructure within the state, including the use of legacy mining infrastructure for renewable energy purposes. Among his many publications, Dr. Hudak has contributed to two NRRRI technical reports assessing pumped-hydro and compressed air energy storage potential in northeastern Minnesota. Dr. Hudak received his Bachelors' in Geology at Carleton College, his Master's in Geology at UMD, and his Ph. D. in Geology at the University of Minnesota.

ENERGY TRANSITION LAB

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