



# MINNESOTA MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

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House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee

March 16, 2021

Re: The Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association supports HF 239  
(Natural Gas Innovation Act).

Dear Committee Members:

The Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association, with 150 members, represent contractors who perform the installation and servicing of plumbing, heating, and cooling equipment. Whether it is water, natural gas, oil, air or any other medium – mechanical contractors do it. Our contractors range in size from a couple of employees to hundreds of employees, and in type from installing a water heater in your home to repiping a refinery. Minnesota MCA members hire over 6000 employees and performed over \$1/2 billion of construction business every year. Our contractors spend over \$5 million dollars every year on training apprentices and journeyworkers on all aspects of our industry.

House File 239, the Natural Gas Innovation Act is good for Minnesota citizens and Minnesota consumers. HF 239 will help maintain an energy strategy to keep natural gas reliable and affordable in meeting the energy needs of Minnesota homes and businesses.

- It clarifies legislative intent that natural gas can assist the state in meeting existing renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- Allows for the innovation in the use of renewable natural gas, renewable hydrogen, and end-use carbon capture.
- Allows for the cost of innovation will be phased in over time.
- Ensure that the Public Utilities Commission will have public input throughout their processes.

Minnesota has long embraced innovative ways to protect the environment and in its energy policy. The Natural Gas Innovation Act will do these things for Minnesota consumers.

Sincerely,

Gary Thaden  
Government Affairs Director  
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