



100% Campaign  
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100  
Saint Paul, MN 55114  
[www.100percentmn.org](http://www.100percentmn.org)

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Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for House Files 637 & 674 (Lee), House File 2076 (Pursell), House File 1973 (Acomb), and House File 638 (Freiberg).

As we transition to a more equitable and clean energy future, we have the opportunity to improve the lives of Minnesotans. This transition means more jobs, cleaner air, better buildings, and new transportation options, but it also means being prepared for the impacts of our changing climate. Five of the bills you are hearing today will help Minnesota participate in and prepare for the future.

**First, we support House File 637, Rep. Lee's bills to improve Minnesota's permitting process** by assessing the cumulative impacts of pollution when conducting environmental review and permitting in environmental justice areas.

For too long, some communities in our state have borne more of the negative impacts of pollution, particularly, communities with larger percentages of residents who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color, lower-income families, and non-English speakers. We know that as climate change continues, these same communities are more vulnerable to climate impacts.

This bill would address this problem by creating a cumulative impacts analysis that would consider multiple sources of pollution, the demographics of the area, and input from a public hearing when considering whether to renew, approve, or conditionally approve a permit.

House File 674 offers a related solution, a pilot program to create community air monitoring systems in environmental justice areas in Minneapolis. These sensors are a critical part of this effort to protect Minnesotans' health. To reduce air pollution, we need to better understand when, where, and how it's happening. This system will enable us to do this in some of the places that need it most.

**Second, we support Rep. Pursell's House File 2076, a bill to reinstate the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Citizens Board.** This board served Minnesota well from 1967 until 2015. It provided the public an opportunity to participate directly in critical decisions about how our MPCA can best protect the people and places we love. This bill updates the board to better reflect the full geographic, gender, and racial diversity of Minnesota.

**Third, we support House File 1973, Rep. Acomb's bill to update Minnesota's statewide greenhouse gas emissions goals.** Our existing state goals, put in place in 2007, have fallen behind the internationally recognized, science-based goals of cutting economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions in half (from 2010 levels) by 2030 and reaching net-zero by 2050. The bill would then add protections to make sure the actions taken to meet these goals do not adversely impact the communities that have already been

exposed to pollution affecting public health or environmental quality. When we come together, Minnesotans can accomplish great things. This goal is a North Star for creating a cleaner and more equitable Minnesota.

**Finally, we support House File 638, Rep. Freiberg's bill to provide grants to cities in the seven-county metropolitan area to improve municipal wastewater systems.** The larger and more frequent precipitation events that Minnesota is already experiencing are expected to become even more extreme if we do not reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate changes. Even as we do that, we also need to prepare for a future where we are managing increased and intensified stormwaters. These inflow management investments will be a critical way to prevent future damage, backed up sewers and flooded basements, that Minnesotans can avoid. Likewise, the bill's prioritization of homes at 80% or less of the area's median income is an important way to make sure these investments reach the Minnesotans who need them most.

Transitioning to a net zero emissions economy by 2050 is a generational challenge for Minnesotans. It's one we can meet, if we enact legislation like this.

Please support House File 637, 674, 2076, 1973, and 638.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

*Aurora Vautrin*

**Aurora Vautrin**  
Legislative Director  
100% Campaign  
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100  
Saint Paul, MN 55114