

Dear Chair Long & the Climate and Energy Committee,

My name is Sophie Nikitas and I'm testifying in support of putting Minnesota on track for 100% renewable energy by 2040, if not sooner.

I've lived in Minneapolis for the last decade, but I was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. One of the main reasons I love Minnesota is the access to green space: parks, lakes, prairies - I can't imagine moving back to NYC and losing that.

But I also have asthma and allergies, and every year it feels like it's getting harder and harder to breathe. And it's only going to get worse if we do not make a swift and decisive transition to 100% renewable energy by 2040, if not sooner. We know that one of the main effects of the climate crisis is worsening air quality, which increases the negative effects of asthma and allergies.

We have a real opportunity here to be a national leader here: to ensure that we are a state with clean air and water for generations to come. So I urge you to continue to fight to put us on this path to 100% renewable energy, and I deeply thank you for all the work you've already done.

Sincerely,
Sophie Nikitas
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