

April 16, 2024

Minnesota House of Representatives
Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee
State Office Building, Room 200

RE: House File 4177 - Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Omnibus Bill

Dear Chair Acomb, Representative Swedzinski, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of HF4177, the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Omnibus bill. The committee's work this year builds upon strong policy from the first year of the biennium and will help move Minnesota toward a clean energy future. We support many provisions within this bill and highlight some below.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We are focused on educating Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy. Our business membership comprises over 60 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state. CEEM stands committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive.

A number of our organization's and business members' priorities were included in this proposal, including:

- **HF4700 Minnesota Energy Infrastructure Permitting Act** – As participants in the stakeholder working group convened last fall by the Minnesota PUC to examine our state's permitting processes, we are encouraged by the discussion around permitting reform and view passing permitting reform as essential to our state's timely clean energy transition.
- **HF4936 C-PACE Update** – The amendment will align Minnesota with national trends in C-PACE financing, making the state a more attractive location to improve commercial building sustainability through attractive financing and increased flexibility.
- **HF5097 Interconnection Reform** – This bill addresses long-standing interconnection delays and shocking grid upgrade price tags attached to individual projects which is plaguing the expansion of renewable and distributed generation across the state.
- **HF4574 Updates to ECO Act** – Updating Minnesota's Energy Conservation and Optimization Act to streamline implementation and take into account policy that has passed since passage in 2021.
- **HF4759 Geothermal Feasibility Study** – Establishes a grant program for local governments to assess the feasibility of installing geothermal energy systems to assist cities in reaching their clean energy goals.

We thank Chair Acomb and the committee for their thoughtful work this session and for putting together an omnibus bill to support Minnesota's clean energy economy and help to ensure we achieve our 100% clean energy law. We look forward to continuing to work with the legislature to move toward a clean energy future.

Sincerely,



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