



January 18, 2023

Minnesota House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 200  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**Re: HF 7 - Electric utility renewable energy standard obligations modified, wind projects exempted from certificate of need proceedings, low-voltage transmission lines included in definition of solar energy generating system for siting purposes, Public Utility Commission authority modified to issue permits for electric generation facilities.**

Dear Chair Acomb and members of the committee,

Clean Grid Alliance (CGA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HF 7.

CGA is a nonprofit organization headquartered and working in Minnesota, plus eight additional states in the Midwest. CGA's membership consists of wind and solar developers, manufacturers, and nonprofit clean energy advocacy organizations. CGA is well-known for its technical and policy expertise, and ability to bring diverse groups together to advance opportunities for renewable energy development throughout the region.

CGA supports HF 7 and its effort to set a 100% carbon free standard by 2040, but recognizes that to achieve this goal, common sense siting and permitting reforms will be necessary. Several essential provisions are included to maintain the feasibility of rigorous clean energy deployment. The bill:

- Eliminates the Certificate of Need (CN) Requirement for IPP (Independent Power Producer) wind and solar projects to **better reflect Minnesota's changing energy landscape**;
- **Reforms and streamlines the permitting process** by changing certain requirements for low-voltage transmission lines;
- Improves the environmental review process by **removing unnecessary red tape**; and
- **Statutorily validates consideration of local benefits, labor, and socioeconomic impacts** in permitting decisions.

To achieve our carbon-free goals, we must also pursue pragmatic policies to help us get there. Clean energy deployment provisions are an essential part of reaching 100% by 2040. CGA is happy to provide more information on the specifics of this important work.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madelyn Smerillo".

Madelyn Smerillo  
Senior Policy Associate

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peder Mewis".

Peder Mewis  
Regional Policy Manger

**Address**

570 Asbury Street, Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55104

**Office Phone**

651.644.3400

**Website**

CleanGridAlliance.org