



Representative Jamie Long, Chair

Representative Patty Acomb

Members of the House Climate and Energy Finance Committee

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Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Today we are at a point where we can no longer debate if and how climate change will impact Minnesota; the impacts of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions on our state are already being felt, but without research into solutions Minnesota will be unprepared for increasing climate impacts. Funding from HF3431 allows MPCA to meet its mandate to recommend strategies to reduce our state's GHG emissions and detailed potential benefits of each strategy. This report helps ensure Minnesota maintains a competitive economy and a healthy environment for our residents.

MPCA's reporting can help key traditional industries like agriculture, forestry, and manufacturing remain vibrant and integral to our communities. This money would mean that Minnesota would better manage the impacts of the energy, waste, and building sectors and ensure these industries, which are required to drive our economy can do so in ways that are responsible and consistent with preserving our state's nature and communities health.

The impacts of climate change are being felt today in Minnesota. Climate models and recent history show that Minnesota is getting warmer, wetter winters, and hotter drier summers. This shift in climate will impact everyone in Minnesota. Changing rain patterns have increased flooding across the state, impacting critical infrastructure, and damaging businesses, crops, and homes. This year saw Minnesota's first December Tornado on record, brought by delayed cooling for the winter. Warmer winters, in time, would lessen natural defenses that kill off invasive species which threaten our crops, forests, waterways, and native flora and fauna. Increased heat perpetuated by GHG emissions brings challenges in the summer as well. Urban heat island effects mean that the temperatures in our cities can often reach dangerous levels. More extreme heat events across the state will have serious health impacts, especially for vulnerable populations with respiratory conditions, but also for the elderly and very young. Our cities are not designed for the same extreme heat that many southern American cities expect, and many residents are unprepared for these increasing extreme heat events. Increased heat will harm our local and regional environment as well, fires in surrounding states and across the

border in Canada brought dangerous air quality to our communities last summer. Our choices as a state reverberate around the country, region, and world.

Many states and cities around the country have completed studies like the one this bill supports as a part of Climate Action Plans or other efforts. Minnesota has the opportunity to act as a leader, and to devise strategies that help to meet established GHG goals. We have a responsibility to our communities and the natural world to meet the challenges of today, and few are more pressing than the economic, environmental, and health impacts of increased GHG.

Respectfully Submitted,

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