



Re: [HF 1738 \(Swedzinski\)](#)

March 3,, 2025

Chair Swedzinski and Members of the House Energy Committee,

I write on behalf of the DFL Environmental Caucus. Our mission is to educate and mobilize the citizens of Minnesota to address the climate crisis and to protect, preserve, and restore the natural environment. We oppose HF1738 and urge you to reject this bill.

HF1738 ignores the sacrifices of the Prairie Island Tribal Community.

The Prairie island Tribal Community bears the burden of living within 700 yards of toxic nuclear waste. The Renewable Development Account (RDA), was established in 1999 as a condition for allowing Xcel Energy to temporarily store its nuclear waste there. The conditions have not changed. There are no other concrete plans to deal with this toxic waste. In fact, Xcel will add about 34 more casks to extend the operation of the nuclear plans for another 20 years. Xcel has an obligation to honor that agreement and continue to contribute to this fund. According to Allison Macfarlane, former chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Rodney Ewing, former chair of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, “storing nuclear waste in pools or dry casks at reactor sites rather than repositories built deep underground is a “temporary solution” that is safe for decades but “not the millennia needed to isolate this radioactive material from the environment.” ([Star Tribune](#), Feb. 8, 2024)

HF1738 hampers renewables, system efficiency, and grid modernization.

Now is not the time to repeal the RDA. According to Xcel Energy, these funds have supplied more than [\\$118 million for projects](#) to identify and develop new or emerging renewable energy sources. We are in a critical period where we must drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to avoid a world where climate chaos will hamper our children’s ability to survive and prosper. [Yale’s 2023 Climate Opinion survey](#) indicates the majority of Minnesotans (64%) are worried about Global Warming, believe it will harm future generations (74%), and that corporations should do more to address it (71%). Your job as legislators is to protect us from the worst impacts of climate change



by acting NOW. Rolling back this fund will dramatically hurt that effort. Are you representing us or big monied interests?

HF1738 ends contributions from the RDA to the Solar on Public Grant Program.

Limiting the solar on public grant program to contributions from the general fund will severely limit the scope of this important program at a time when we need to greatly accelerate the adoption of solar. As a reminder, we learned there is zero marginal cost to operating existing solar on the MISO grid. Our schools and other public buildings provide an important educational opportunity for the public on this win-win solution that will reduce energy bills, provide distributive energy sources, and improve air quality for all of us.

I urge you to reject HF 1738. Honor the sacrifices the tribal community is making. Don't sacrifice our children's future. Continue to fund and promote clean energy sources.

Sincerely,

Veda Kanitz, Legislative Committee Cochair

DFL Environmental Caucus

Cc. Megan Bond, Chair