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The Honorable Mohamud Noor
Chair, Minnesota House Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee
379 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Noor and committee members,

Fresh Energy is a nearly 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on House File 1750 (Christensen).

Fresh Energy supports House File 1750. As Minnesota continues to transition its electric supply from legacy generation to new, carbon-free generation, it is critical that workers who have kept our lights on and powered our economy, and communities and regional economies hosting our legacy plants, are not left behind. House File 1750 is a meaningful and important step towards addressing this issue.

There are several aspects of this bill that we especially appreciate. First, the bill takes a long-term view of Minnesota's energy transition and establishes a durable framework for supporting communities through a challenging period that will take years, rather than weeks or months, to fully realize. Second, rather than a piecemeal approach, the bill takes a holistic look at the challenges facing host communities including local tax base impacts, economic development barriers and support for affected workers. Finally, we recognize and support the use of general fund dollars to support the ongoing work of the proposed Energy Transition Legacy Office at DEED.

Minnesota's existing power plants provide family-supporting jobs, local tax revenue and an economic core for the communities that host them. Fresh Energy is firmly committed to supporting the needs of our existing utility host communities and workers during this time of unprecedented transition for Minnesota's energy system.

Sincerely,

Allen Gleckner
Lead Director, Clean Electricity
Fresh Energy