



408 Saint Peter Street, Suite 350  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

PHONE 651 225 0878  
EMAIL [info@fresh-energy.org](mailto:info@fresh-energy.org)  
WEBSITE [fresh-energy.org](http://fresh-energy.org)

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Chris Swedzinski  
Chair, Energy Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
658 Cedar Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Swedzinski and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 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 share our concerns regarding House File 1738.

House File 1738 would repeal Minnesota's Renewable Development Account (RDA). The RDA, previously known as the Renewable Development Fund, was established in 1994 as part of the agreement that resulted in spent nuclear waste being stored on site at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The Prairie Island facility is located immediately adjacent to the Prairie Island Indian Community (PIIC) – in fact, the Prairie Island Indian Community today is located closer to a nuclear power plant and stored nuclear waste than any other community in the country.

This context – both historical and current – matters. Changes to major elements of the 1994 agreement should not be considered without the full and explicit agreement of the PIIC.

The Renewable Development Account is funded through a flat fee on each dry cask being used to store waste at Prairie Island. The Legislature and other stakeholders established a clear method for eventually sunseting the RDA when it was created in 1994: the removal of dry casks from Prairie Island. Fresh Energy encourages stakeholders and policymakers with an interest in eliminating the RDA to prioritize removal of spent nuclear waste from on-site at Prairie Island. Until that occurs, we believe the state should continue to honor the commitments made in 1994 unless and until they're modified through mutual agreement with PIIC, including the existence of the Renewable Development Account and associated payments-per-cask.

For these reasons, we recommend that members oppose House File 1738.

Sincerely,

Justin Fay  
Chief Advocacy Officer, Fresh Energy  
[fay@fresh-energy.org](mailto:fay@fresh-energy.org)