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The Honorable Spencer Igo and Michael Howard  
Housing Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chairs Igo, Howard, and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a Minnesota-based, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with more than 30 years of experience shaping and driving bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns with House Files 483 and 484.

House Files 483 and 484 restrict the authority of local governments to determine what is best for their communities, stripping elected officials of their ability to be responsive to the needs and concerns of their constituents. Homes and buildings built with clean electric appliances are typically less polluting, healthier, safer, and less expensive over time. Rather than limiting mayors and city councils across Minnesota, we should instead be encouraging our local authorities to deliver these benefits for their communities and households.

As Minnesota continues to be a leader in the clean energy transition, it is essential that we provide communities across the state with the tools to meet their respective local-level energy and public health goals. Rather than restricting local decision-making with House Files 483 and 484, we encourage the Legislature to pursue alternative options to support homeowners, businesses, and local governments in clean energy transition efforts that uplift community resiliency, wellness, and local control.

For these reasons, we recommend committee members oppose House Files 483 and 484.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Eichten  
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