



March 3, 2021

To: Senator Senjem, and the
Minnesota Senate Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Senators,

We are happy to see that action to mitigate the climate crisis is being discussed and considered by this committee.

There are some great components to SF 955, the Clean Energy First bill – relating to local clean energy jobs, transmission planning and hosting community transition planning sessions – which we strongly support. It is important that all these pieces be thoughtfully addressed. Thank you for incorporating these provisions.

Due to the urgency of our climate crisis, there is a fundamental question we need to ask when evaluating any legislation proposed to address climate:

“What amount of greenhouse gas emissions do we expect will be reduced from this policy?”

It would be most helpful if the authors could quantify this impact and provide this information to the public.

The proposal before this committee today also has a number of serious flaws:

- 1) **It promotes garbage burning by defining it as a form of renewable energy.** Garbage incinerators have serious negative health and social consequences on the communities that surround them. In addition, they produce significant greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2) **It counts coal and gas technology that continues to emit carbon as a “carbon free resource”** when that technology captures only 80% of the emissions, and allows the injection of the captured carbon back into the ground to push out more oil. This is clearly false advertising.
- 3) **It repeals Minnesota’s decades old moratorium on new nuclear plants** when there is still no solution for storing the toxic waste that lasts for generations. Nuclear power is very expensive, with long construction lead times, and we have no utilities that have expressed an interest in constructing a new nuclear plant.
- 4) **It rolls back existing authority to prioritize clean energy** by reducing the existing resource planning requirement for clean energy portfolios from “all” energy to only “new” energy.
- 5) **It creates new exemptions:** for energy produced outside of Minnesota, for new fracked gas plants being proposed right now, for natural gas peaking plants and market purchases.

Given the concerns we have expressed, we believe the overall impact of this bill, as it currently stands, does not move us forward in creating the clean energy future Minnesota needs.

We ask that you not support SF 955 unless the flaws we have identified are addressed.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Morse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "S" and "M".

Steve Morse
Executive Director

Climate Generation

Environment Minnesota

Izaak Walton League – Minnesota Division

MN350

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

MN Interfaith Power & Light

League of Women Voters Minnesota

Sierra Club – North Star Chapter

Vote Climate