



February 15, 2021

Chair Jamie Long  
517 State Office Building  
St Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for the Next Generation Climate Act (HF XXXX)

Dear Chair Long and members of the House Climate and Energy Finance Policy Committee,

The Next Generation Energy Act of 2007 set greenhouse gas emission reductions goals for the state of Minnesota, based on the best climate science available at that time. Over those 15 years, climate science has improved, the need to address impacts from climate change has evolved, and it is clear that more aggressive time lines are needed. Additionally, there is clearer understanding of communities who have been, and continue to be, the most negatively affected by climate change. Recognizing where policy can be improved is why the Next Generation Climate Act is needed.

The Next Generation Climate Act would take the additional step of ensuring that state governmental units take these greenhouse gas emission reduction goals into account when making decisions, resulting in state leadership implementing these science-based, multi-sector greenhouse gas emissions reductions. This policy complements the commitments from natural gas and electric utilities to use energy more efficiently and decarbonize their energy systems, cities and corporations sustainability goals, and organizations and private citizens engaging in innovative ways to reduce their carbon footprint. We appreciate the wholistic view of incorporating greenhouse gas emission reduction targets into the state's government activities.

Sincerely,

Jamie Fitzke  
Legislative Policy Manager  
Center for Energy and Environment