



Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum
235 E 6th St, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

February 8, 2021

Dear Committee Members,

The Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum writes to you today to encourage you to support the Natural Gas Innovation Act (SF421/HF239). The bill is a positive step forward for clean and affordable energy in Minnesota and creates economic opportunities for producers and rural communities.

MnCEF is a non-profit education and advocacy organization that promotes an All-of-the-Above energy strategy for Minnesota. We encourage policymakers to embrace the potential of innovations in clean energy based on our conservative principles such as economic growth, property rights, innovation, job growth, and national security.

Renewable natural gas, biogas, and hydrogen have the potential to supplement and strengthen our critical energy systems both economically and environmentally. By creating the framework of a PUC filed "Innovation Plan," the bill creates an important space for Minnesota's utilities to explore new technologies and develop techniques for grid implementation of new clean energy sources. Without this framework, we risk prematurely grounding new renewable energy innovations that would reduce costs and carbon emissions.

Renewable gas technologies provide Minnesota families and businesses the opportunity to boost their incomes by producing their own energy or selling their energy products. Like most renewable energy developments, these economic gains are particularly beneficial to Minnesota's agricultural producers, farmers and landowners, workers, and rural communities. Changing commodity prices and challenging harvest conditions are two of many variables faced by farmers and diversifying their income through energy production provides a big boost to their bottom line. As new energy technologies grow, more investment follows. One recently announced clean energy project is expected to produce over a billion dollars in private investment, akin to a privately-funded bonding bill for southern and western Minnesota. Local taxpayers and public services benefit as well. The Wind Production Tax alone has delivered over \$100 million to Minnesota county property tax rolls. The result of this development is stronger communities, more jobs, and a better farming economy across Minnesota.

Clean and affordable energy requires an All-of-the-Above approach, and renewable gas options have the potential to be the next major addition to our increasingly diverse energy supply. By embracing this advancement in clean energy, we can benefit Minnesota's economy while improving our environment for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Seidel".

Adam Seidel
Executive Director