

Senator Nick Frentz

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Katie Sieben
Chair
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Dear Chair Sieben and members of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission:

I'm writing today to provide clarity and understanding regarding the legislative intent behind Minnesota's 100% Clean Energy by 2040 law. As you may recall, I was the chief author of the bill in the Minnesota Senate.

To successfully pass this law, we brought together utilities, labor groups and environmental advocates who all understand the need for our state to take this transformative step in a way that will actually work for our state's future. The inclusion of biomass, including waste-to-energy, as an eligible energy technology (EET) under Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.1691, was a deliberate choice. Subdivision 4 of that section states that all renewable energy credits are generated by EETs, and that a utility can procure RECs to meet the carbon-free standard. Therefore, refuse-derived fuel and biomass must be classified as carbon-free and eligible to satisfy the standard.

The goal of the 100% Clean Energy law is to move us forward in our fight to mitigate the worst costs of climate change. It's better for our climate goals to allow waste-to-energy, because the landfill alternative is worse - both from a ratepayer cost standpoint and a carbon emission reduction standpoint. According to the EPA, 17% of all methane emissions in the US are due to the landfilling of waste. Methane is responsible for 1/3 of global warming impacts felt currently and is a more destructive greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide¹.

I deeply appreciate the work that the Public Utilities Commission is doing in the implementation of this critical piece of legislation. Please feel free to reach out to my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nick A. Frentz

Senator Nick Frentz
Senate District 18
Chair, Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
Assistant Majority Leader

¹ *Methane and Climate Change*, International Energy Agency, <https://www.iea.org/reports/global-methane-tracker-2022/methane-and-climate-change>