

E. Support a Strong and Just Clean Power Plan for Minnesota

Whereas Minnesota is developing a plan to meet the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) first ever limits on carbon pollution from power plants.

Whereas, to stay on track and continue our progress towards a clean energy economy Minnesota needs strong and just implementation of the Clean Power Plan yielding

more well paying jobs, public health

benefits, and the preservation of our treasured lakes, rivers and streams that benefit everyone.

Whereas, this is a critical opportunity to speak out in support of moving Minnesota away from fossil fuels like coal, and ramping up the role of renewable energy, such as wind, solar, and energy efficiency, while looking for opportunities to increase local jobs for all communities, keep energy bills affordable and find solutions for low income households to get out of energy poverty.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota's leaders develop a racially and economically just state Clean Power Plan that will strengthen the state's clean energy leadership that :

- **Ensures Minnesota continues the transition to a clean energy economy needed to achieve the state's science based climate goals of at least 80% carbon reductions by 2050 while creating family sustaining jobs for all Minnesotans in one of the fastest growing sectors of our economy**
- **Incentivizes clean energy projects, including energy efficiency and community solar, that are affordable and accessible to all Minnesotans, especially in low income communities.**
- **Includes meaningful participation from underrepresented communities in all stages of decision making and implementation, and through a process that includes an environmental justice and equity analysis.**
- **Maximizes the number and quality of family sustaining jobs created in renewable energy and energy efficiency, protects and creates manufacturing jobs, provides workforce training accessible to all Minnesotans to meet the demands of job market, and includes worker transition strategies and strong labor standards.**
- **Takes into account the legacy of environmental racism, including historically high levels of pollution in low income communities of color, and takes steps to undo the harmful impacts.**
- **Does not include waste burning as a clean energy option, as it places a significant public health burden on low income and communities of color surrounding waste burning facilities.**

F. Transportation Options

Whereas, Minnesota's transportation system needs immediate attention to improve bicycling and walking connections, expand our bus and rail options, replace deficient bridges, and improve congested roads;

Whereas, Minnesotans need more equitable access to transportation options that connect us to jobs, housing, education, and services;

Whereas, our current transportation system adversely affects our economic competitiveness, air and water quality, and quality of life;

Whereas, building out the metro area transit system would save billions in reduced travel time for individuals and businesses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota's leaders support investment in a more balanced, multimodal transportation system that is racially just, economically competitive, promotes a healthy lifestyle, and is safer and more accessible for all users, of all ages and abilities.

G. Transportation Energy Savings and Carbon-Footprint Reduction

WHEREAS, maintaining the safety of Minnesota's aging roads, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure requires investments for maintenance and updating; and,
WHEREAS, improving the connectedness of communities across the state of Minnesota requires investment in expanding the transportation system; and,
WHEREAS, about one-third of our overall energy use is for petroleum transportation; and,
WHEREAS, transportation contributes to Minnesota's carbon footprint but smart investment choices can reduce that footprint;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DFL supports legislation and policies that require maximization of energy savings and carbon reduction as a condition for transportation and infrastructure improvement and expansion projects throughout the state.

H. Eminent Domain for Pipelines

WHEREAS, the power of eminent domain was established for purposes of maintaining the public interest and public welfare; and,

WHEREAS, Presidential Executive Order 13406 establishes that: "It is the policy of the United States to protect the rights of Americans to their private property, including by limiting the taking of private property by the Federal Government to situations in which the taking is for public use, with just compensation, and for the purpose of benefiting the general public and not merely for the purpose of advancing the economic interest of private parties to be given ownership or use of the property taken"; and,

WHEREAS, the petroleum oil industry's practices, products, and resulting environmental pollution have been demonstrated to be harmful to the public interest and welfare; and,

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and data compiled and analyzed by the International Energy Agency, U.S. pipelines spilled three times as much crude oil as trains between 2004 and 2012 and that rate is increasing; and,

WHEREAS, transport of crude oil by pipelines in recent years has resulted in larger spills, some into rivers that are harder to clean up and pose long-term risks to human and environmental health and smaller underground leaks may go unrecognized for years resulting in permanent aquifer contamination; and,

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has rate control only over public services that provide electricity, natural gas, and telephone to ensure that vendors of these services provide safe, adequate, and reliable service at fair, reasonable rates; and,

WHEREAS, the refined products produced from the piped crude oil by the refineries is neither regulated by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission nor necessarily destined for consumers within Minnesota;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DFL supports amending MN laws to remove the power of eminent domain for crude oil pipelines.

I. Abandonment of Pipelines

WHEREAS, there are over 183,000 miles of active hazardous petroleum pipelines within the U.S. regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration; and,

WHEREAS, there is no regulatory assurance that these pipelines will be properly removed when they are obsolete in 30-40 years nor that associated contaminated soils will be properly treated or remediated; and,

WHEREAS, neither the Federal Government nor State regulatory agencies have established regulations or enforcement capability to address thousands of miles of abandoned petroleum pipelines on public and private lands; and,

WHEREAS, Minnesota has recognized the environmental problems with abandoned underground petroleum tanks and established reasonable regulations to ensure they are properly abandoned and contamination is addressed; and,

WHEREAS, petroleum pipelines are operated under pressure and traverse virtually every physical environment, thereby presenting a greater risk to Minnesota's ground water than abandoned underground petroleum tanks;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DFL supports (1) the enactment of regulations requiring financial assurances as a condition for the permitting of new pipelines to ensure that funds are available for their ultimate removal and for the treatment and remediation of associated environmental contamination and (2) the establishment of a superfund to address proper abandonment of existing petroleum pipelines.

J. Clean Power Plan

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan will by 2030:

- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent from 2005 levels
- Reduce deaths from power plant emissions by 90 percent from 2005 levels and produce health benefits worth \$55 billion to \$93 billion per year
- Create tens of thousands of sustainable jobs
- Increase renewable energy generation by 30 percent while also lowering the costs of renewable energy
- Save American consumers a total of \$155 billion in energy costs from 2020 to 2030; and,

WHEREAS, Minnesota is on track to meet carbon reduction targets proposed by the Clean Power Plan; and, WHEREAS, Minnesota's continued national leadership in clean energy production will benefit its economy, environment, and the health of its citizens; and,

WHEREAS, state implementation of the Clean Power Plan is the subject of coordinated efforts to create political gridlock and legislative hurdles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DFL opposes legislative attempts to stall, slow, or block state implementation of the EPA's Clean Power Plan.

K. Electric Cars

WHEREAS, about one-third of our overall energy use is for petroleum for transportation; and,

WHEREAS, electric cars easily operate at an efficiency equivalent to 100 miles per gallon; and,

WHEREAS, electric cars are the only viable option that can use renewable energy to provide personal transportation; and,

WHEREAS, electric cars produce no emissions; and,

WHEREAS, electric cars can travel about 10-15 miles on just the energy a refinery needs to make a gallon of gasoline; and,

WHEREAS, about 75% of our transportation fossil fuel dollars leave the state economy but only about 50% of our electricity dollars leave the state economy; and,

WHEREAS, compared to an average gas car, electric cars will return \$1,000 to \$ 2,000 per year in GDP (based upon 23 mpg, and 12K miles driven per year, gas being \$ 2.00 to \$ 4.00 per gallon);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DFL supports legislation and other policies to promote the purchase and use of electric cars.

L. Climate Change – Price on Carbon

WHEREAS, the social cost of carbon should be factored into its use; and,

WHEREAS, we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions to near-zero by mid-century to avoid catastrophic climate change; and,

WHEREAS, the simplest, most transparent, efficient, and enforceable method to reduce emissions is to put a fee on carbon at the point of entry into the economy; and,

WHEREAS, 40 countries and over 20 sub-national jurisdictions have implemented or are scheduled to implement carbon pricing; and,

WHEREAS, pricing carbon will provide producers and investors a positive incentive to embrace low carbon technologies and renewable energy sources; and,

WHEREAS, a revenue-neutral carbon-pricing fee that begins at \$10/ton CO₂ equivalent has been shown through economic modeling to reduce carbon emissions by 50% in 20 years, while growing the economy and benefiting health and the environment; and,

WHEREAS, the monthly dividend generated will protect the poor and middle class from the increased cost

of energy with average households coming out ahead;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DFL supports legislation that puts a steadily rising, revenue-neutral fee on carbon that returns all revenue to households in monthly dividends to grow the economy, save lives, and reduce carbon emissions by 50% in 20 years.

M. Climate Education

WHEREAS there is scientific consensus that Earth's climate has changed primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS the fossil fuel industry has widely and continually spread self-serving and misleading or untruthful statements to confuse the public about climate change;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DFL supports legislation to fund a statewide climate change education initiative with outreach features such as public service announcements, and positive incentives such as awards, certifications, grants, and other measures to educate citizens of all ages on the causes, consequences, and choices we face related to climate change.

N. Reduced Electric Rate for Energy Intensive Trade Exposed Industries

WHEREAS, increasing rates for individual consumers of electricity will be a burden on low and middle income families, and on laid-off mine workers; and,

WHEREAS, this will also be a hardship on small- and medium-size businesses which are mainstays of local communities, and on those seeking to use less energy, and on those that seek to diversify the economy of the area; and,

WHEREAS, large industrial energy-intensive users must change to considering their energy costs as part of their operations, not to be subsidized by individuals and those seeking to be more efficient energy users;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DFL supports the repeal of legislation allowing Minnesota Power to charge small-scale energy users a higher rate for their electricity while reducing rates for large energy-intensive industries.

O. Silica (Frac) Sand Mining

WHEREAS, there has been a new and significant demand for silica sand mining for hydrofracking, a controversial gas extraction method; and,

WHEREAS, there are concerns about unregulated silica sand mining including its impacts on air quality, traffic and safety issues, the effect of groundwater and surface water discharges on wells and drinking water, noise pollution caused by mining and transporting sand during extended hours, the financial burden on adjacent landowners whose property values may decrease, and the negative impact on tourism; and, WHEREAS, the land will be forever changed once a silica sand mine is established;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DFL supports that a moratorium on issuing permits for silica sand be established and only lifted when following requirements are satisfied:

- 1) An environmental assessment worksheet for each proposed extraction site including research by highway engineers, water and air quality experts, and wildlife and fishery biologists which would be provided to the designated government agencies charged with approving the application
- 2) Public hearings to follow the completed environmental review
- 3) Prior to sand extraction site approval, mining companies would be required to submit a written contractual stewardship plan that provides proof of financial capability and assurance of the reclamation and restoration of the site.