



Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

URGENT ACTION ALERTS

The legislative session is supposed to end on Monday (but a special session may happen). Legislators must still finish major negotiations. We can influence those!!!

Handfuls of House & Senate members are negotiating differences between bills. Before those negotiations can be completed, **leadership from each chamber and the governor must agree on overall spending parameters**. Although each side passed their own spending levels, they don't have joint agreement tax issues, nor on the final spending level overall in each category. We hoped that leaders fishing together would bring agreement...but we're still waiting.

Meanwhile, we need action on both Clean Energy (column 1) & Affordable Housing (column 2)! Please also pray for good results on issues that impact vulnerable people and our vulnerable earth!!!

Who are my Minnesota legislators in St. Paul & what is their contact info?

<https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

What are my legislator twitter handles:

Senate Republicans: <https://twitter.com/mnsrc/lists/mn-senate-republicans/members>

Senate Democrats: <https://twitter.com/SenateDFL/lists/senate-dfl-caucus-members/members>

House Republicans: <https://twitter.com/mnhousegop/lists/our-members-6/members>

House Democrats: <https://twitter.com/mnhouseDFL/lists/dfl-house-2019/members>

URGENT ACTION NEEDED!

Clean Energy in Final Bill

ACTION: Call, email, or tweet your senator (and/or representative) to be in contact their colleagues negotiating the final jobs & energy bill to support the provisions in the talking points.

MESSAGE TALKING POINTS:

- Establish where you are from & that you are a constituent
- Explain why Clean Energy (renewable energy & energy efficiency) is important to you. Feel free to also comment regarding why you think the talking point provisions are key].
- Thank them for including provisions for solar in schools; electric vehicle infrastructure; & conservation (energy efficiency) improvements, especially for low-income families in their respective bills
- Ask that they include a pathway to 100% carbon free electricity by 2050 in the final bill.
- Tell them to include "Clean Energy First" provisions in the final bill, like the House bill has.

Hashtags for Twitter: #100percentMN #mnleg

Tag: @LuthAdvocacyMN & your legislator(s)

ACTION THIS WEEK!

Affordable Housing & Homelessness

ACTION: Email or tweet your senator and/or representative with one or more of the following messages. Each can be an individual message or tweet (Use your own words).

MAIN MESSAGES:

- Establish where you are from & that you are a constituent
- Share why affordable housing is important to you!!
- Ask them to tell leadership to prioritize housing as they consider overall funding levels
- Urge them to pass an infrastructure bonding bill with money for creation or rehab of more affordable housing
- Tell them to please prioritize the Homes for All Agenda
- Explain that more affordable housing is needed in __ (name where) __. Urge them to prioritize housing!

Hashtags for Twitter: #H4A #mnleg

Tag: @LuthAdvocacyMN & your legislator(s)

BACKGROUND on Clean Energy Legislation:

Legislation related to clean energy was combined with job related bills, and passed both the Minnesota House and the Minnesota Senate. But the bills are very different in each chamber. Now it's time to negotiate the separate bills into one.

The Minnesota House passed a very strong Jobs & Energy Omnibus bill, HF 2208 Third Engrossment (This is the jobs bill version that had the energy bills pasted into it to make a single bigger bill a single bigger bill).

The energy sections of the bill provide a path toward 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050. They also include provisions that make progress on diversifying the utility workforce, prairie restoration on public lands, new electric vehicle infrastructure, electric buses, conservation (or energy efficiency) improvements for low-income households, a new low-income residential solar program, local hiring, and more. This is all very good, and we are pleased with the progress.

The Minnesota Senate Jobs & Energy bill, SF 2611, Second Engrossment, was amended and passed by the full Senate. It has some very good elements in the energy section, but is also missing two key pieces.

The good: The bill has measures for solar on schools, conservation (energy efficiency improvements), and electric vehicle infrastructure.

The missing: 1) a pathway to 100% carbon free electricity by 2050, 2) a Clean Energy First provision. Clean Energy First means that if renewable energy (wind or solar) is less expensive than energy from other sources, it should be used.

The Senate's Clean Energy First provision is in a different bill, SF 1456, to which several controversial amendments were added. It would probably be easier to include in the final jobs & energy bill if this other bill were passed in the Senate (despite bad amendments), but we are just asking conferees to include Clean Energy First in the final jobs & energy bill.

BACKGROUND on Homes for All Legislation:

Our coalition has been working on homeless and affordable housing related legislation in four different areas: 1) Minnesota Housing Finance Agency; 2) Human Services; 3) Taxes; and 4) Infrastructure Bonding.

We knew from the start that we were making big requests of our legislators, but hoped that would press home for them the level of the need across the whole state.

Our tax credits are not getting attention with other big tax issues like the gas tax and the Health Care Provider Tax taking so much attention and causing such gridlock. Yet, even as I write this, I have the Omnibus Tax Conference Committee streaming in the background, and they have been having conversations about housing in various bills.

Senate leadership has not wanted housing to be a strong focus this year. The bills for Minnesota Housing is much better in the House. There are some areas of agreement in programs for Minnesota Housing, but homelessness & related services may not get much this year. Although the Health & Human Services bill in the House is better than in the Senate, it is much less than we had hoped. Of course, the outcomes for both the MFHA bill and the Human Services bill rests on how much overall funding leadership will allow for them. Will it "just" be less than we desired....or extremely low requiring cuts in important programs? Your voice can still make an impact!

Many legislators said early on that there would be no bonding bill this year. It now looks like neither chamber nor party will have much to point to by way of success, which **opens space for an infrastructure bonding bill** that could include transportation, housing, and universities. **That is something we can push for this week! And we can push for it to include significant funding for affordable housing creation and rehabilitation!**



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105 University Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55103

www.LutheranAdvocacyMN.org

Director (Tammy): 651-238-6506 / tammy@lcppm.org