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Budget and Taxation Committee

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Testimony for Senate Bill 153
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Municipal Electric Utilities
January 21, 2021

Madam Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 153: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Municipal Electric Utilities, which alters the renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) for municipal electric companies.

Current law makes a distinction between electric companies and electric cooperatives with regards to compliance with the State's renewable energy portfolio standard. The RPS requirements do not apply to customers served by an electric cooperative under a supplier purchase agreement that existed on or before October 1, 2004. In addition, electric cooperatives are exempt from increases to the solar portion of the RPS beyond 2.5%.

The five municipal electric utilities in or State are disproportionately affected by the current RPS requirements. With small areas of coverage and smaller customer bases than other electric companies, the RPS puts municipal utilities at an economic disadvantage when compared to other electric cooperatives and utility companies. Senate Bill 153, seeks parity and sets RPS standards similar to those established by cooperative electric utilities.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 153.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt