

**Pat Garofalo**  
**State Representative**  
 District 58B  
 Dakota and Goodhue Counties



# Minnesota House of Representatives

**COMMITTEES:**  
 CHAIR, JOB GROWTH AND ENERGY AFFORDABILITY POLICY AND FINANCE  
 TAXES  
 WAYS AND MEANS

Dear Commission Member,

At the end of this past session, Governor Dayton signed into law Chapter 94, SF 1456, the Jobs and Energy Omnibus Budget Bill. The bill made significant reforms to Xcel Energy's Renewable Development Fund (RDF).

Xcel's RDF dates back to 1994, and among its original purposes was "to stimulate research and development" of clean energy technologies.

Over the years, the RDF has drifted away from its original purpose and been used by some to fund projects well removed from the 1994 mandate. Our 2017 reforms will return the RDF to its original purpose.

As such, the RDF is again available as a resource to fund basic and applied research on clean energy topics.

I have long believed that the types of clean energy and climate-related projects funded under your "Category E" by the Trust Fund simply do not match well the purposes of the of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

I understand that the current list of 2018 recommendations includes in Category E five projects listed for a total of \$2,550,000. A number of these projects have been previously considered and not adopted by the Legislature. I suggest that you repurpose these dollars to more urgent priorities.

I believe that these projects are a better fit with the reformed RDF. To that end, I ask that all energy and climate change project applicants to the 2018 round of LCCMR funding, instead apply for RDF funds.

If any such items are included in the LCCMR funding bill, I will oppose those items and will actively seek their removal from the bill.

Thank you for your service. Please let me know if you have any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Garofalo".

Rep. Patrick Garofalo  
 Chair, House Job Growth and Energy Affordability Policy and Finance Committee

