

MINNESOTA CONSERVATION FEDERATION

QUARTERLY MEETING

September 11, 2016

Resolution #6

Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Minnesota must do more to cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions

WHEREAS; the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board recently released a report entitled “The Minnesota Climate Solutions and Economic Opportunities (CSEO), and

WHEREAS; the CSEO report was called for by a 2007 law that requires the state to cut our annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 80% between 2005 and 2050, and

WHEREAS; while some progress has been made toward that 2050 greenhouse gas reduction goal new laws and policies well beyond what are already in place at the federal and state levels will have to be passed, and

WHEREAS; Republicans and Democrats came together in 2007 to pass the Next Generation Energy Act that includes establishment of the 80% reduction goal, and

WHEREAS; 85% of greenhouse gases emitted in Minnesota are being generated by electricity production, the fossil fuel driven transportation system, and agriculture operations, and

WHEREAS; electricity generation is identified in the CSEO report has the sector where most of the reductions should come from by moving away from coal burning power plants, and

WHEREAS; climate change and the greenhouse gases that are associated with a warming world negatively affects populations of wildlife and the ecosystems that they live in, and

WHEREAS, adding solar and wind power options to the electrical generation mix will create a win-win situation for the state by cleaning up the air and producing jobs in the clean energy sector.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED; that the Minnesota Conservation Federation meeting at its annual meeting on September 11, 2016 in Grand Rapids, Minnesota strongly urge the 2017 legislative session to review the current Next Generation Energy Act in terms of its goals and mission and pass new legislation that will expand and accelerate electricity generation from wind and solar sources in clean up our air, our waters, and our soils for human beings and the fish and game that share this state with us.

Sponsored by Rylee Main