

Ratepayer Protection Act

The Ratepayer Protection Act ([HF 4292](#) | [SF 4426](#)) would prevent Minnesota's investor-owned utilities from using ratepayer money against ratepayer interests, by spending it on political influence activities and other unjustified costs.

What This Bill Does

- Closes loopholes in existing policies to ensure investor-owned utilities can't use money from ratepayer bills to lobby regulators or lawmakers;
- Strengthens restrictions on what expenses investor-owned utilities can pass on to ratepayers through rates, addressing trade organization dues, private jet flights, event sponsorships, and more; and
- Creates expanded disclosures and enforcement mechanisms for transparency and compliance.

Why It's Important

- Minnesotans should only pay for utility services provided in the public interest, not for expenses designed to enrich utility executives and shareholders.
- Stopping utilities from including unjustified expenses in customer rates will particularly protect Minnesotans who have lower incomes, are people of color, and/or are renters — groups with disproportionately higher energy burdens.
- Minnesota is part of a movement — Colorado, Connecticut, and Maine have already passed similar legislation, and nine other states have introduced bills.

For More Information

- On the Ratepayer Protection Act, contact Patty O'Keefe (patty.okeefe@sierraclub.org) or Bobby King (bking@solarunitedneighbors.org).
- On the CLEAR Energy Coalition, contact Katie Kienbaum (kkienbaum@ilsr.org).

