



June 2023

Dear friends and neighbors,

I hope you and your family are well. Thanks for letting me serve our communities in the legislature. This past session marks my seventh year as your Senator, and this brochure is my report to you.

The combination of a budget surplus of \$17.6 billion and one-party DFL control brought opportunities and challenges. The bills we ultimately passed protected reproductive freedoms, helped working families, and funded schools and public safety. We passed a paid family leave program and legalized cannabis. We cut social security taxes and provided an historic child tax credit. We also approved bonding for several large local construction projects. I personally chief authored and passed more than \$1 billion in legislation to move our state forward. Many called it one of the most productive sessions in history.

Not surprisingly, my own workload increased. First, I was re-elected Assistant Majority Leader, sharing duties in floor leadership, communications, and more. Then, I was named Chair of the Senate Energy, Utility, Climate and Environment Committee, with a budget responsibility of over \$330 million. I was also named Vice Chair of both the Pensions and Finance committees. There was a lot to get done but in the end the results were worthwhile.

This session was memorable, but I'm glad to be back home in North Mankato. I wish you all the best going forward.

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Proud to join Gov. Walz and other leaders at the signing of my 100% Clean Energy by 2040 bill.

Senator Frentz Highlights
Chief Authored Bills

100% Clean Energy by 2040-SF4

This historic piece of legislation will make Minnesota's energy sector 100% carbon neutral by 2040 – an extremely important step in our fight against climate change. This bill has received national recognition, and balances cost and reliability concerns.

School Counselor Federal Billing-SF1028

This bill helps our school districts be reimbursed by the federal government for counseling services – bringing over \$10 million to Minnesota to support student mental health needs. Some Mankato area school staff took leadership roles in fighting for this bill.

PTSD Duty Disability-SF1959

This bill funds PTSD treatment for firefighters, paramedics, and police who are disabled from work. It also supports the related pension plans, and helps cities and counties pay for associated health care costs.

Omnibus Pension Budget-SF3162

This bill provides \$500 million to shore up our pension reserves and helps improve retirement packages for our teachers, public servants, police officers, and firefighters.

Further details on Senate file bills (i.e. SF3162) are available online at: www.senate.mn

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State Senator
Nick Frentz
2023
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How I Voted On the Budget and Omnibus Bills — And Why

Tax Bill (HF1938) YES Vote

I voted “yes” mostly because of the tax cut provisions. The bill provides a \$1.1 billion Child Tax Credit and \$1.1 billion in Social Security tax cuts over the next four years. It also provides property tax relief and a new renter’s credit. Further, the \$300 million in public safety funding will help make our communities safer statewide. There was also a \$6 million extension of a local sales tax option allowing North Mankato to fund and develop local projects.

Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development (SF1955) YES Vote

Agriculture supports 431,000 jobs and provides a \$116 billion total economic impact for our state. The bill appropriates \$1.5 million for soil health programs, \$800,000 for pollinator research, and \$300,000 for invasive plant species removal. \$200,000 was included for GreenSeam, a Greater Mankato Growth based coalition of more than 1,000 agriculture related entities across southern Minnesota.

Veterans (SF2247) YES Vote

I was happy to vote “YES” on the bill because it provides \$14 million for the design and construction of a Minnesota military museum at Camp Ripley, \$50,000 yearly for grants to cover retreats for veterans, and \$540,000 yearly for Metro Meals on Wheels to provide home-delivered meals to veterans.

Bonding Bills (HF669 And HF670) YES Vote

A big bipartisan win for Minnesota. We passed \$2.6 billion in borrowing for dozens of statewide infrastructure improvements. These projects create hundreds of good paying local jobs, too.

See more in “Local Project Successes”

Education Finance (SF2684) YES Vote

Education was the top investment we made this session – over \$5 billion in new funding to help our kids, teachers, and schools. This bill provides millions in grants for STEM course offerings in Greater Minnesota, financial literacy courses, and more.

Judiciary and Public Safety (SF2909) YES Vote

The bill provided more money for public defenders, and funded law enforcement priorities. Probably the most notable provisions adopted were on gun violence prevention: we passed universal background checks and red flag provisions. The intent is simple: to help keep Minnesotans safe.

Transportation (SF3157) YES Vote

Providing the biggest boost in transportation funding in many years, this bill included increases for road and bridge construction, and for transit. The increase of 5 cents per gallon in the gas tax to 33 cents was OK with me, given that the 2008 level of 28.5 cents (the last time it was increased) would be about the same as 40 cents per gallon today in inflation adjusted dollars.



Testifying in committee with Minnesota Rural Electric Association representative Jenny Glumack and Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association representative Kent Sulem. Working alongside local municipal electric and rural cooperatives is a big part my work as Energy Chair.

Local Project Successes

As chief author of these bills, I want to thank area advocates and local and state officials for their help in making these projects a reality.

\$35 million for the Mankato Wastewater Treatment Plant

Because of its age and a high risk of facility failure, this was an urgent district need. The project will overhaul and update several plant components. This will increase safety, capacity, and protect local ratepayers.

\$21.56 million for the St. Peter Security Hospital

including the Phase II improvements on the lower campus and improvements to the Sunrise and Tomlinson buildings. This will improve workplace safety.

\$1.6 million for the MSU Rural Behavioral Health Center

This bill establishes and funds a first of its kind rural mental health clinic at MSU Mankato. It will offer training for our students and provide needed mental health treatment and counseling for area residents.

\$8.46 million for MSU Mankato to renovate space in the lower level of the Clinical Sciences building, to design the demolition and replacement of Armstrong Hall, and make other campus renovations.

\$4.2 million for prep work for a new Bureau of Criminal Apprehension lab in Mankato. When completed, this \$45 million project will support southern MN criminal prosecution work.



It's always an honor to meet with constituents. Here, folks from the Greater Mankato Growth Leadership Institute met with me for a Capitol tour and a photo on the Senate floor.



In April, the Energy Committee welcomed Prairie Island Indian Community President Johnny Johnson and Xcel Energy President Chris Clark to testify about the future of the Prairie Island Nuclear Facility.

Committee Summary

I was named to six committees this session: Rules, Commerce, Energy, Pensions, Finance, and Bonding. The largest share of my work was spent chairing the Energy Committee. Minnesotans expect their energy to be clean, reliable, and affordable, and I think we got some great results.

Energy Committee Highlights:

Part of my work included bringing forth the Omnibus Budget Bill, which passed.

Omnibus Budget Bill (SF2438)

It appropriated over \$330 million in numerous categories: almost \$40 million for home weatherization (efficiency improvements), \$29 million for Solar on Schools (half in Greater Minnesota), \$15 million for electric vehicle rebates, \$13 million for electric school buses, \$12 million for Heat Pump grants, \$15 million for a key interstate transmission line project, \$7 million for Green Fertilizer grants, and much more.

State Matching Fund Bill (SF1622)

I authored a bill to create a state competitiveness fund. It will provide over \$200 million in state matching funds for clean energy projects under the Federal IIJA and IRA Acts. This will bring an estimated \$1 billion - \$1.4 billion more in investments to our state.