

From: twentyfourthblackbird@gmail.com
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Re: Support For Charging Franchise Fees In The Shoulder Months (Nov & Apr) For Revenue For The Power of Home
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 8:51:05 PM

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To the City Council of Saint Paul

I would like to clarify that this previous message is regarding Ordinance 24-32 and is in support of passage.

Ian Hedberg
Ward 4
Saint Paul

On Nov 4, 2024, at 8:43 PM, - <twentyfourthblackbird@gmail.com> wrote:

To the Saint Paul City Council,

I am writing in support of the ordinance discussed today enabling franchise fees to be raised during the shoulder months of November and April.

I support this revenue being used to fund The Power Of Home and other climate efforts. Global warming came for North Carolina and many other parts of the world this year; it is coming for Saint Paul (and some of the effects are already here). The time to start seriously addressing global warming was 30 years ago, so we have no time to waste. The Power of Home is a good stepping stone for climate action, as it can be used to help poor households get off natural gas and electrify, so they do not get left behind as more affluent households electrify and the fixed costs of maintaining natural gas pipes shift to the households still stuck on it. At the very least weatherization helps households withstand the harsh weather from climate change and, setting weatherization aside, helps reduce the strain of daily life on poor households.

Since the franchise fee is passed along to residents by Xcel as a sales tax on energy use, I feel it is important to use the money in an equitable way to offset the increased financial burden on the poorest households, which efforts like The Power of Home does by giving reduced energy costs to poor households. Once the increased fees are collected, I would like to see the fees charged more on users of natural gas (to encourage transitioning off of it) and larger users of electricity (to encourage energy efficiency). But that is a consideration for the future; now is the time to activate this funding source.

Ian Hedberg
Ward 4
Saint Paul

Member of Unidos Saint Paul expressing an individual opinion