

100%

100% Campaign
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www.100percentmn.org

March 30, 2022

Chair Long and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for four of the bills that the Committee is hearing on March 31, 2022: Rep. Fue Lee's House File 4631, Rep. Patty Acomb's House File 3759, Rep. Shelly Christensen's House File 3985, and Rep. Athena Hollins' House File 4653.

Rep. Lee's HF 4631 would support research on how projections of future weather conditions can be integrated into the design and evaluation of buildings constructed by the state of Minnesota and local units of government. **This is overdue research that would inform our state's investments in public buildings.** Our state's Sustainable Building Guidelines provides guidance on how to meet our sustainability goals for site, water, energy, indoor environment, materials, and waste. As we are already experiencing climate-related weather changes, we ought to add weather resiliency into our planning and construction. When we invest in buildings designed to last for decades, we ought to make sure they are prepared for and adapted to the weather we should expect in the 2030's and 2040's.

Rep. Patty Acomb's HF 3759 would provide support for the University of Minnesota Extension Service to continue (and expand) its work educating the public about extreme weather in Minnesota.

This work is timely, relevant, and in-demand. Agricultural leaders, land and resource managers, and local elected leaders are continually planning for our future. **The program this bill supports would help communities to better manage our land, water, wildlife, and agriculture systems.** It would support the creation of more resilient and sustainable buildings. It would help communities mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters.

The University of Minnesota Extension Service is a trusted system with existing relationships with key stakeholders across the state. With additional staffing, the Extension will be better prepared to serve communities with the rigorous, science-based expertise that the University of Minnesota is fully qualified to provide.

Rep. Shelly Christensen's House File 3985 would provide \$5 million to the Community Energy Transition Grant Program at the Department of Employment and Economic Development. These funds are a critical next step for this program that was established during the last biennium. They would provide the Energy Transition Office, created in 2021, with the means to implement the recommendations of the Minnesota Energy Transition Plan. This will make a tangible difference in the lives of workers and residents in communities that currently host power plants that use coal, nuclear energy, or natural gas. **This is an important bipartisan investment to make sure every community benefits from our transition to a more equitable clean energy future.**

Rep. Athena Hollins' HF 4653 would create an Electric School Bus Deployment Program designed to allow Minnesota's electric utilities to create programs to promote the electrification of school buses. **Electric school buses are a win-win for school districts. They will reduce fuel costs, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce students' exposure to diesel exhaust fumes.** Programs like these are in-demand in Minnesota's school district. Bus electrification pilot projects and our Solar on Schools program have proven popular with districts, with students, and with the public. The state should continue to be a partner in supporting this transition to clean transportation.

Please support House File 4631, House File 3759, House File 3985, and House File 4653.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
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