

March 28, 2022

Chair Ecklund and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to share our support for Rep. Jamie Long's House File 4183.

This bill would meet some of our state's most urgent employment, equity, and environmental needs.

By supporting the work of Unidos MN Education Fund and the New Justice Project MN, our legislature can make a real difference in the lives of some of our state's lowest income workers, in particular, Minnesota's people of color and immigrant communities. The programs being proposed are designed to prepare these workers for careers with high-demand, family-supporting jobs.

Over 55,000 Minnesotans already work in clean energy and energy efficiency jobs. For the three years before 2020, these jobs grew three times faster than our overall statewide employment. However, access to these jobs is not equal. Women hold fewer than 20% of our state's clean energy sector jobs. Black Minnesotans hold fewer than 10%.

These organizations are uniquely positioned to improve these participation rates. As experienced, community-based organizations both the New Justice Project MN and the Unidos MN Education Fund have ongoing relationships with the Minnesotans who would benefit from these services. Both organizations would be trusted recruiters, credible communicators, and accountable program leaders.

These programs would help ensure that all Minnesotans get to participate in our equitable and clean energy future. By preparing more Minnesotans for work in construction, clean energy, and energy efficiency, these programs would help these workers build skills they can contribute in workplaces and communities for years to come.

Please support House File 4183.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

end

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