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Members of the House Labor and Industry Finance and Policy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for HF 772, which modifies the energy code adoption process for new commercial buildings, because of the importance of the bill in helping the City of Minneapolis achieve our climate goals. Deploying energy efficiency measures at the time of construction is the most cost-effective time to make these investments and will save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for property owners and renters. Buildings account for approximately 40% of all the energy used in Minnesota, and this goes up to 60% for the City of Minneapolis. Advancing the energy code is essential for helping Minnesota meet its renewable energy targets and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

Sustainable Building 2030 has long been required for state buildings and buildings receiving state bonding money. Minnesota's experience with SB 2030 positions us to successfully implement HF772 and capture the benefits of cost-effective, high-performance buildings for businesses and residents of multifamily buildings. Building contractors and design professionals statewide are already familiar with the Sustainable Building 2030 energy standards developed by the State of Minnesota.

SB 2030 has resulted in energy efficient, resilient buildings for low- or no-cost with immediate energy savings. The existing Minnesota buildings meeting SB 2030 standards save tens of millions of dollars every year. In addition, clean energy measures are known to improve public health and support economic development, creating value that exceeds the minimal associated costs. Effective, least-cost implementation is key to the implementation of clean energy technologies and is best integrated during construction or during a major renovation. Please accept this letter of support and contact me if you would like to discuss the matter further.

Yours Truly,

Mayor Jacob Frey,  
City of Minneapolis