



April 22, 2020

RE: HF 4502

Dear Chair and Members of the Energy and Climate Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Michelle Dreier, Member Engagement & Government Affairs Manager at the Electrical Association.

The Electrical Association is an organization of 400 Electrical Contractors and Electrical Employers and provides education, workforce strategies and government advocacy for its members, most of whom are small employers throughout the State of Minnesota, from Sleepy Eye to Onamia, Porter to Thief River Falls.

I am writing to urge adoption of HF 4502. The bill would immediately open up lines of business and workforce stability for electrical contractors while building a more energy efficient cleaner greener Minnesota.

Technologies I have identified that may be installed under ECO incentives include:

- air source heat pumps and water heaters under the fuel-switching provisions.
- Energy efficiency paired with load management technologies such as, advanced lighting systems with networked controls
- and Load Optimization technologies such as equipment that enables appliances and systems, like water heaters, to draw energy during off peak times.

Energy efficiency incentives provide a mechanism to reduce the timeframe of return on investment to incentivize energy efficiency projects instead of continuing operations with less efficient equipment. Energy efficiency projects provide income for our contractor members and product service members alike.

While many of my members continue to work during the pandemic, they have experienced a slowdown and are looking for other ways to keep themselves and their electricians employed. My hope is HF 4502 will preserve Minnesota's electrical talent and enable untapped economic opportunities, when needed most. As we learned during the last recession, individuals that are laid off don't necessarily return to the same industry.

ECO has the potential to retain or expand workforce opportunities all over the state by adding the next generation of technologies to the highly successful energy efficiency programs offered through the

Conservation Improvement Program. In addition to providing residents and businesses more opportunities to save money on their energy bills, the ECO Act will send a clear market signal, which will retain or save skilled jobs, create economic opportunities, and allow residents and businesses to save money through these cost-effective programs, when needed most.

Please adopt SF 4502. Not only does this language create the next step in energy efficiency it helps businesses throughout the state maintain their workforce and stay in business.

Best regards,

Michelle Dreier
Member Engagement & Govt. Affairs Mgr
Electrical Association