

Dear Chair Acomb and House Climate and Energy Committee Members,

The undersigned represent a broad coalition of organizations and key partners who urge you to pass HF3949 (Hollins): \$10 million in funding from the Renewable Development Account for Sabathani Community Center's (SCC) **Community Energy** project. The project funds will support the installation of a district energy geothermal heat pump system, with plans for a future expansion to a new 72-unit multi-family housing being built on the Sabathani campus in 2025.

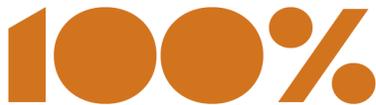
For the last 58 years, Sabathani Community Center has served as a critical institution in the heart of South Minneapolis. Each year, over 150,000 people walk through their doors. Once complete, the Community Energy project will support the community by securing energy for critical services such as their food shelf; providing a gathering place for times of extended power outages; dramatically reducing carbon emissions in a community that carries a heavy pollution burden; supporting workforce development for family-sustaining careers; building wealth and energy access in a community of color; and providing a demonstration site for clean-renewable energy.

"Sabathani is the heart of Minneapolis, and this heart needs a transplant. We don't just need new boilers, we need to transform our energy system to one that serves our community well into the future and beyond."

- President and CEO of Sabathani Community Center, Scott Redd

With passage of HF3949 (Hollins), and the federal funding SCC has already secured, Sabathani can continue to serve as a pillar of our resilient community.

Thank you for your consideration.





March 4, 2024

Dear Chair Acomb & Members of the House Climate & Energy Committee:

ISAI AH is a multi-racial, statewide, nonpartisan coalition of faith communities, Black barbershops, childcare centers, and other community-based constituencies working together towards racial, economic and climate justice in Minnesota.

We are writing to urge your support of HF 3949 to support the geothermal energy project at Sabathani Community Center.

No matter what we look like or what corner of the state we live in, all Minnesotans deserve a secure future. Yet the reality is that climate change threatens that future, for all of us. Indeed, the future is not even far ahead – we are already feeling the impacts of climate change with a lack of winter, recurring patterns of drought, and terrible widespread health impact of wildfires, just to name a few high profile examples. This situation demands urgent action.

One of the key sectors in which greenhouse gas emissions have not yet begun to trend in the right direction is residential and commercial buildings. The good news is there are exciting new technologies such as thermal energy networks (TEN's) which can deliver heating and cooling much more efficiently and inexpensively than reliance on fossil fuel combustion. We must forge ahead to deploy these technologies at a much more rapid pace.

The Sabathani Center is a vital community resource in south Minneapolis, in a neighborhood that has suffered from a shameful history of intentional policies of racial and economic discrimination. The network geothermal project at Sabathani will produce numerous tangible benefits not only for an important hub of vitality in the community, but will be a beacon for more such projects which are urgently needed across the state. This project will benefit the community, the state and the planet. We urge your support.

Sincerely,

Lars Negstad
Policy Director