



Monday, March 6, 2023

To: Minnesota House of Representatives, Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
Room 10 State Office Building, St Paul, MN 55101

Dear Committee members,

The BlueGreen Alliance supports HF 2336, which would establish the Minnesota Innovative Finance Authority to fund projects that advance clean energy, energy resilience for underserved communities, and markets across the state. Rooted in values-driven investments, the Authority would play a key role in ensuring that we create good-paying jobs in Minnesota's clean energy, transportation, buildings, and manufacturing sectors.

The Inflation Reduction Act dedicated \$27 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency to establish the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Fund. The GHG Reduction Fund makes grants available to states, municipalities, and Tribal governments to invest in projects in economically, socially, and environmentally disadvantaged communities. Having a state body manage these large-scale grants is one way to ensure that projects benefit local economies and communities primarily, have technical assistance, and dedicated staff to administer grants.

The Authority will fund expansive investments in clean energy technologies like clean energy retrofits, renewable energy components and battery manufacturing. These investments would spur economic development in greater Minnesota by creating clean energy manufacturing facilities and jobs, bringing new markets to the state that pave the way to a clean energy future and support families across Minnesota.

Minnesotans stand to benefit from a clean energy future in which we grow good union jobs and cut emissions in our communities. As an example, a report commissioned by the BlueGreen Alliance found that investments in improving energy efficiency by 20 percent in Municipal Buildings, Universities, Schools, and Hospitals (MUSH) would create nearly 15,000 high quality jobs in Minnesota.¹ We can build healthier, more efficient public buildings where we work, eat, gather, and more. We applaud the prevailing wage provision on projects over \$100,000 financed partially or wholly by the Authority.

We urge the committee to support HF 2336 to establish a state authority to oversee the federal greenhouse gas reduction funds to ensure the most meaningful impact on building a clean economy in Minnesota is actualized.

In Solidarity, Abby Hornberger, MN Policy Organizer, BlueGreen Alliance

¹ BlueGreen Alliance, 20 For MN: A Proposal To Reduce Minnesota's Energy Use In The M.U.S.H. Sector By 20 Percent