

100%

100% Campaign
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Chair Acomb and Members of the House Climate & Energy Committee,

We're writing in support of House File 749, Rep. Liz Reyer's bill that adds climate change resilience to the state's sustainable building guidelines.

The buildings Minnesota invests in today are designed to last for decades. And in the decades to come, Minnesota will experience increasing impacts of climate change. In this future, we'll expect more from our buildings. We'll need them to be designed for more frequent extreme weather events, prepared for emergency operations, and, of course, built for net-zero emissions. But we should also expect our buildings to be more than just defense-oriented. Our built environment will still need to be welcoming, user-friendly, and oriented to building community both inside four walls and within the neighborhood.

To be truly sustainable, the buildings Minnesota invests in now ought to be both climate-adapted and climate resilient.

The localized risks of climate change matter when planning how buildings will operate and how the people in those buildings will fare. The increasing risks of windstorms, extreme heat, and larger, more sudden precipitation events are particular risks in Minnesota. And these impacts affect our built infrastructure in concrete ways. Increased freeze/thaw cycles affect roofs and building materials. More hot and humid days affect air quality both outside and inside buildings. Larger rain events affect drainage systems and basements. Hail and wind can damage building exteriors.

In short, not considering resilience to climate change in state sustainable building guidelines will almost certainly lead to wasted state financial resources and lowered living and working conditions for Minnesotans.

HF 749 is a good step in helping Minnesota adapt to a changing climate by supporting the development and use of building materials, designs, and operations to promote resilience to climate change. Minnesota is ready to prepare and adapt.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aurora Vautrin

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cc: Rep. Liz Reyer