



February 28th, 2023

TO: House Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee

FROM: Andrea Lovoll, Legislative Director, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

RE: HF 2093 (Hassan)

Chair Hassan and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) is a nonprofit organization with almost 50 years of experience using law and science to protect Minnesota's environment and the health of its people.

We support HF 2093 (Hassan). MCEA stands in solidarity with the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI), with the Little Earth community, and with the broader East Phillips neighborhood in their fight for cleaner air and for the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm in South Minneapolis.

East Phillips is a neighborhood inundated with air pollution and overburdened with illnesses that result from this pollution. This is in addition to the historic contamination of the neighborhood that resulted in remediation of over 600 homes for high levels of arsenic in the soil. The rates of childhood asthma requiring hospitalization are greater than two times the statewide average. According to Minnpost, "In 2019, children ages 0-17 had a statewide asthma hospitalization rate of 5.9 per 10,000 people, compared to a rate of 15.6 per 10,000 people in East Phillips." Building a truck yard and diesel filling station in the East Phillips neighborhood would result in the addition of even more pollution and even more harm.

This bill would provide needed funding to allow EPNI to acquire the site from the City of Minneapolis and to develop the community center and indoor urban farm that has been their vision for a decade.

This community asset would be an example of community sustainability and justice. It would benefit all of us. We urge your support for HF 2093.

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