Testimony

Testimony presented before the Minnesota House of Representatives Committee on Economic Development Finance and Policy on March 1, 2023

Regarding: Testimony in Support of HF2093

Thank you Chair Hassan, Vice-Chair Hanson, and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to provide this written testimony today.

MN350 urgently supports the development of the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm and HF2093, which would make this vision a reality. This project presents an opportunity to deliver environmental justice that is self determined by the community and would begin to repair the deep historical harms of environmental injustice in the East Phillips Neighborhood. The East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm would drive economic and community development, providing opportunities for job training, spaces to foster small businesses, green jobs and connections to healthy and local food sources. In addition to supporting the development of this facility, we oppose the current plans to build a Public Works truck yard at the roof depot site. This project poses a threat to the East Phillips neighborhood by threatening additional air pollution in an already impacted neighborhood – East Phillips currently suffers concentrated air pollution due to proximity to highways and has historically been affected by arsenic pollution. Despite having alternative sites, the city is continuing to place a disproportionate burden on the community members living in East Phillips.

As the individual providing this testimony, who lives within the impact zone of the Public Works site, I am deeply concerned about the safety and wellbeing of myself and my neighbors. As the organization MN350, we strongly support the development of the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm and HF2093, which invests in the East Phillips neighborhood and in environmental justice, rather than continues to poison those who live there.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Mia Farinas
Food Systems Organizer
MN350 Action