

January 30, 2023

**RE: Local Government Support for House File 597: Local Climate Action Grant Program**

Honorable Members of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee:



The undersigned local elected officials support legislation that provides funding to local jurisdictions for the purpose of climate action planning and implementation.

Local entities are critical to achieving the State’s climate goals. Most energy is used in homes, businesses, and industrial operations located within cities, counties, and tribal communities. Transportation and land use decisions are made at the local level. Importantly, the negative impacts of climate change are felt most at the local level —disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations— and we need to be prepared to respond to and recover from these hazards.

More than two dozen Minnesota local entities have energy goals and/or have adopted climate action plans. In 2022, twenty-one Minnesota cities joined together in declaring a climate emergency. With state funding, more local jurisdictions will be able to complete climate action plans, and we can demonstrate further success with accelerated implementation.

To be successful, Minnesota communities need adequate funding, technical assistance, and accurate data to complete and implement climate action plans. This bill will provide the necessary resources to assist local jurisdictions in doing their part to tackle climate change.

To date, the following local elected officials have signed on to support this bill:

Name & Title	Signature
<b>Sue Budd</b> City Councilmember, St. Louis Park	<i>Sue Budd</i>
<b>Kelly Rae Kirkpatrick</b> Councilmember, City of Rochester	
<b>Patrick Hanlon</b> Mayor of Hopkins	
<b>Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas</b> Mayor, City of New Brighton	<i>Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas</i>
<b>Brian Hunke</b> Council Member, City of Hopkins	<i>Brian Hunke</i>

**Dr. Kimberly Wilburn**  
City Councilmember, Minnetonka

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Wilburn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.