

100%

100% Campaign
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March 19, 2023

Chair Becker-Finn and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Representative Larry Kraft's House File 2269, a bill to create an energy benchmarking system for large commercial buildings.

The transition to a more equitable and cleaner economy means real opportunities for Minnesotans. Cleaner air, better buildings, affordable energy, and local jobs are just a few. If enacted, House File 2269 would move us toward that future.

Benchmarking is how we measure and report the annual energy use of a building. It's a critical first step for both reducing costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Minnesota has experience with benchmarking in some of our largest cities, like Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and Bloomington. It's a proven and reliable system for better understanding building performance. The bill would establish this system statewide for as yet uncovered commercial buildings over 50,000 square feet. This tool would help put Minnesota on the path to cleaner, more affordable, better performing buildings for everyone.

We believe the bill will be most effective with a simple and direct enforcement system, like the one the bill includes. We assume a notification will be sufficient in many cases, and civil penalty necessary in a few. We also think that the technical assistance requirements for the department in Section 1, Subd. 7 (2) will help ensure that building owners can and will participate.

Please support House File 2269.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aurora Vautrin

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