

Written Testimony on Buy Clean - House File 2170

Presented by John Cunningham, Executive Director, ARM of Minnesota

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The Aggregate and Ready Mix Association (ARM) of Minnesota is actively working towards lowering carbon emissions for construction materials and is supportive of the use of EPDs to serve that purpose. To that end, ARM has been working with MnDOT since the fall of 2018 to develop a means for the inclusion of EPDs within the public letting process. We are confident that our continuing work with MnDOT, and with our national affiliates, will yield the best results for the people of Minnesota.

In support of the efforts behind HF 2170, we would like to offer a few suggestions that would lead to a more robust bill and, ultimately, lower carbon emissions on construction projects.

1. Provide additional support for data collection and analysis
 1. Adding language to the proposed bill establishing a tax credit for development of EPDs would encourage producers to develop EPDs sooner rather than later
2. Add a representative of the Aggregate and Ready Mix Association (ARM) of Minnesota to the Environmental Standards Procurement Task Force
 1. ARM represents the vast majority of construction materials producers and suppliers in the State
 2. ARM has been working with MnDOT since 2018 to lower CO2 emissions and to bring EPDs into the bidding process
 3. ARM's national affiliates provide access to some of the finest technical resources in the U.S.
 1. The Concrete Sustainability Hub at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
 2. The National Concrete Pavement Technology Center at Iowa State University
 3. The National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
3. Include wood and/or timber as an eligible material
 1. Omitting wood and/or timber from the requirements placed on other building materials provides a competitive advantage to that material over those that are subjected to the bill's requirements and it ignores lifecycle assessment of wood

ARM of Minnesota is supportive, and actively working towards, efforts to lower carbon emissions for construction materials. We strongly suggest that the Committee consider the above suggestions to help us reach the common goal of carbon neutrality.

Thank you for providing an opportunity for our industry to submit the above comments.