

March 9, 2023

Minnesota House of Representatives
Committee on Labor and Industry Finance and Policy
State Office Building, Room 10
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 2165 - Limitation of use of certain designated refrigerants prohibition

Dear Chair Nelson, Representative Kraft, and Committee Members

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), I write today in support of HF2165 prohibiting the limitation of use of certain designated refrigerants. This bill is necessary after Congress passed the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act directing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address and phase down the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in 2020. These new refrigerants have a lower global warming potential (GWP) while maintaining or exceeding the efficiency of previous refrigerants.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We work to educate Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy and are committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive. Our business membership is comprised of nearly 50 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state.

We thank Rep. Kraft for bringing this bill forward and Chair Nelson for hearing it in committee. This bill, HF2165, will provide a minor update needed to be in compliance with the federal AIM Act. It allows for Minnesota manufacturers who largely use refrigerants to have an efficient and economical transition while maintaining leadership in the industry. Passage of this bill is necessary to avoid facing significant risks to Minnesota's manufacturing industry once EPA regulations from the AIM Act take effect.

Today there are 58,000 Minnesotans working in the clean energy industry, with the energy efficiency sector accounting for more than 42,200 jobs.¹ CEEM member companies are actively working in this space and Minnesota is a great place for cold weather pilot programs for testing the efficiency of these new low GWP refrigerants. This change will allow Minnesota companies to be nimble and not need to come back to the legislature each time new changes to this industry are made nationally.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for HF2165. We look forward to its passage. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



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Director of Government Affairs
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¹ 2022 Clean Jobs Midwest Report, <https://www.cleanenergyeconomymn.org/clean-jobs-midwest>