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Minnesota House of Representatives Capital Investment Committee
485 Minnesota State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Lee and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. Fresh Energy supports HF 1054 authored by Representative Agbaje, providing support for career training in the clean energy sector at Northgate Development.

We strongly support intentional measures that help Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), under-resourced workers, and youth to enter and stay in the fields related to the clean energy transition, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and electric vehicles. In order to achieve our collective vision of a just transition that builds an inclusive clean energy economy, all Minnesotans *must* have the opportunity to learn and develop the necessary technical skills needed for clean energy jobs. We will only succeed when the clean energy workforce reflects our state's diversity and is made up of Minnesotans from all walks of life. It's not only the right thing to do, it is also the necessary thing to do as the clean energy industry grapples with worker shortages that will only worsen without action now.

We also appreciate that this proposed funding for Northgate Development includes intentional and direct outreach to underserved communities, at a facility that is accessible by public transit. This bill is an opportunity for Minnesota to take the necessary first steps towards creating an equitable and accessible clean energy workforce while implementing the state's climate, economic and racial equity goals as outlined in [Minnesota's Climate Action Framework](#).

The Northgate Development project will help speed the transition to a just and equitable clean energy economy. Thank you Representative Agbaje for authoring this bill, and we encourage members to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Anjali Bains
Lead Director, Energy Access and Equity
Fresh Energy