



BUILDING DECARBONIZATION COALITION

April 7, 2026

Co-Chairs Patty Acomb and Chris Swedzinski Energy Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Co-Chair Acomb, Co-Chair Swedzinski, and Committee Members,

The Building Decarbonization Coalition (“BDC”) respectfully submits this letter of support for HF 2317 as introduced, which establishes a pilot program to study and implement waste heat recovery from wastewater treatment facilities.

This legislation represents a common-sense, pragmatic approach to Minnesota’s energy and infrastructure needs. By capturing thermal energy that is already being produced and currently discarded, we can improve the operational efficiency of Minnesota utilities and provide a stable, local source of heating.

We believe this program offers several key benefits that serve all Minnesotans:

- **Fiscal Responsibility:** This pilot explores ways to lower long-term energy costs for municipalities and ratepayers by utilizing an existing byproduct (waste heat) rather than purchasing additional fuel.
- **Infrastructure Optimization:** It maximizes the value of our existing wastewater treatment investments, turning a disposal process into a value-added energy resource.
- **Local Energy Independence:** By integrating heat capture with district energy and thermal energy networks, Minnesota communities can reduce their reliance on outside energy markets and keep energy dollars circulating within the local economy.
- **Balanced Geographic Impact:** The bill’s requirement to fund projects both within and outside the seven-county metropolitan area ensures that the lessons learned from this pilot will benefit both urban and rural Minnesota.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support HF 2317 and move this pilot program forward.

Sincerely,

Noah Cordoba
Minnesota State Manager
noah@buildingdecarb.org



Abundant housing, low-carbon transportation, and sustainable land use

Sustain Saint Paul

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April 4, 2026

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Our Mission

Sustain Saint Paul champions abundant housing, low-carbon transportation, and sustainable land use in the City of Saint Paul through education, advocacy and political action, to ensure a more just and equitable city for all current and future residents.

Dear Co-Chairs Acomb and Swedzenski, and Committee Members,

Sustain Saint Paul writes in strong support of HF 2317, that would appropriate \$3,000,000 from the Renewable Development Account for a pilot program to capture waste heat from wastewater treatment facilities to provide heat through integration with district energy systems.

Sustain Saint Paul's mission is to champion sustainable development in the city of Saint Paul. We have been active supporters of Clean Heat St. Paul, an effort to recover waste heat from the Metropolitan Council's wastewater treatment plant and integrate it to District Energy St. Paul to provide carbon-free heating to over 500 buildings in Saint Paul's central business district and surrounding areas.

Decarbonizing hundreds of buildings at once from locally available energy resources is truly transformative. The study results show that wastewater energy capture is viable for Saint Paul providing a consistent heating resource. It will not only make Saint Paul more sustainable but also strengthen energy security and cost stability for District Energy St. Paul and its customers.

HF 2317 seeks to explore the same benefits for the rest of the state by identifying wastewater facilities throughout the state and quantifying the total amount of heating resources. Minnesota has over 800 plus communities with public wastewater treatment facilities, representing an enormous, largely untapped opportunity to decarbonize building heating at scale using locally available energy. And Saint Paul can serve as a blueprint.

This bill takes a smart, measured first step to unlock a transformative heating solution for all Minnesotans. We urge the Committee to advance HF 2317. Thank you for your commitment to clean energy solutions that work for Saint Paul and all of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Sustain Saint Paul Board of Directors

April 6, 2026

Representative Patty Acomb, Co-Chair, House Energy Finance and Policy Committee
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Chris Swedzinski, Co-Chair, House Commerce Committee
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for HF 2317 - Wastewater treatment facility heat capture pilot program funding provided, and money appropriated

Dear Co-Chairs Acomb and Swedzinski and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the 1,600+ members and affiliates of the St. Paul Area Chamber, I am writing in support of HF 2317, a bill to appropriate \$3,000,000 from the Renewable Development Account (RDA) for a pilot program to capture waste heat from wastewater treatment facilities.

As an advocate for the East Metro business community, we know that our members depend on reliable, affordable energy to operate, grow, and invest with confidence.

Minnesota has a unique opportunity to lead the nation in putting wastewater to work to heat communities across the state. Capturing this otherwise wasted energy strengthens local energy independence, reduces exposure to volatile natural gas markets, and improves long term price stability—factors that are critical to business planning, competitiveness, and investment decisions. As businesses increasingly evaluate energy reliability and costs when choosing where to locate and expand, resilient district energy solutions provide a clear economic advantage.

Ever-Green Energy is at the forefront of this innovation. Ever-Green's parent affiliate, District Energy St. Paul, is a key partner in the Clean Heat Saint Paul project, which would recover heat from the Metropolitan Council's wastewater treatment plant and replace the majority of the system's fossil fuel use. This transition away from natural gas would significantly improve energy reliability for hundreds of buildings in St. Paul by utilizing a constant, locally sourced heat supply while insulating customers from fuel price spikes and supply disruptions. Reliable, predictable heating costs strengthen the business environment and support long-term economic stability in downtown Saint Paul.

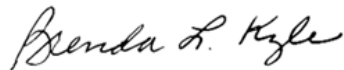


HF 2317 would fund the feasibility and engineering work needed to advance projects like these and identify additional opportunities statewide. Early-stage public investment is essential to unlocking private capital and accelerating deployment of infrastructure that delivers both economic and environmental returns.

We urge the Committee to advance HF 2317 to support innovation, energy resilience, and economic growth.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



B Kyle
President and CEO
St. Paul Area Chamber



April 7, 2026

Minnesota House of Representatives
Committee on Energy Finance and Policy
Capitol 123
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 2317 - Wastewater treatment facility heat capture pilot program funding

Dear Chair Acomb, Chair Swedzinski, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write in support of HF 2317, as amended, a bill to appropriate \$3,000,000 from the Renewable Development Account (RDA) for a pilot program to capture waste heat from wastewater treatment facilities.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan nonprofit representing the business voice of energy efficiency and advanced energy companies in Minnesota. Our more than 70 member companies employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans and are committed to policies that support reliability, affordability, and economic growth.

Wastewater effluent is a reliable, locally available energy resource, and Minnesota has an opportunity to lead in using it to heat communities statewide. CEEM member Ever-Green Energy is helping drive this work. Through its affiliate, District Energy St. Paul, it is a key partner in the Clean Heat Saint Paul project, which would capture heat from the Metropolitan Council wastewater treatment plant to replace most fossil fuel use and decarbonize heating for hundreds of buildings.

Ever-Green also operates Duluth Energy Systems and has advanced designs for a geo-exchange district energy system in Lincoln Park using effluent from the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District. These efforts show wastewater facilities hold significant untapped thermal energy that can provide consistent, sustainable, and cost-effective heating. HF 2317 would support feasibility and engineering work to expand these projects across Minnesota.

As outlined in the Minnesota Climate Action Framework, emissions from commercial buildings have increased by 27% and residential buildings by 38% since 2005—highlighting the need for solutions such as wastewater heat recovery.

CEEM urges the Committee to support HF 2317 as amended and help deliver Minnesota's commitment to a clean, affordable, and equitable energy future for all. We thank Representative Kraft for bringing this bill forward and hope it is included in an RDA appropriation proposal.

Sincerely,



George Damian
Director of Government Affairs
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Dear Co-Chairs Acomb and Swedzinski:

Unidos Minnesota is an immigrant-led, multiracial state-wide organization building power for Minnesota working families to advance social, racial, and economic justice. We are an organization born out of the immigration justice movement. Immigration, education, healthcare, and climate justice are at the core of our work.

Unidos MN is accountable to a base of essential workers and frontline communities, whose voices are critical to shaping the green energy transition. Hence, a decarbonization policy that centers lowering energy costs for working families must be prioritized. We enthusiastically support HF 2317, which would provide \$3 million in RDA funding for a pilot program to capture waste heat from St. Paul's wastewater treatment facilities and integrate it into district energy systems across the city.

Unidos MN has been a proud supporter of the City of St. Paul Clean Heat project, which proposes to recover waste heat from the Metropolitan Council's Wastewater Treatment Plant and integrate it into the thermal grid of District Energy St. Paul. If deployed, this project will effectively decarbonize the heating of hundreds of buildings in the network served by the municipal utility, reducing harmful air pollutants, and stabilizing energy costs for thousands of residents including more than 2,000 units of subsidized affordable housing.

Working families too often face the dual burdens of high utility costs and disproportionate exposure to air pollution from combustion. HF 2317 responds with a \$3 million investment to recover heat from St. Paul's wastewater treatment plan, a proven, scalable pathway to decarbonizing buildings for working-class Minnesotans. Investing in this infrastructure is not only a climate solution; it is a matter of health equity and economic justice.

Minnesota has an opportunity to lead North America in demonstrating that a project at this scale is a real possibility. Our state has the infrastructure, capable workforce, and the community commitment to make it work here.

We respectfully urge the Committee to advance HF 2317. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to a clean energy future that works for all Minnesotans. Should you have any questions, please contact me or our Policy Director, Sara Lopez. Sara can be reached by email at sara@unidos-mn.org or by phone at (507) 581-4211.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilia Gonzales Avalos



Executive Director, Unidos, MN.
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April 13, 2026

Co-Chair Acomb, Co-Chair Swedzinski, and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our strong support for House File 2317, Rep. Kraft's bill to create a wastewater system heat recovery pilot program.

The opportunities here are well known. The Department of Commerce's 2019 report, *Mapping Thermal Grid Integration Opportunities in Minnesota*, identified two sites where wastewater systems are co-located with district energy systems, in Winona, MN and Albert Lea, MN. In 2023, the City of Duluth was awarded a planning grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to explore the feasibility of such a system in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. In 2024, the City of Saint Paul, the Metropolitan Council, and District Energy Saint Paul completed a study on the potential to integrate heat recovered from the Metropolitan Council's wastewater treatment plant with District Energy St. Paul.

The bill would identify more areas where these pilots could be launched, quantify their potential energy savings, analyze implementation challenges and benefits, and identify other sources of funding.

If enacted, the bill would accelerate efforts both in the seven-county metropolitan area and in Greater Minnesota to save energy, lower costs, create jobs, and innovate heating and cooling solutions.

Please support House File 2317.

Aurora Vautrin

Aurora Vautrin
Legislative Director of 100%
2429 Nicollet Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55404
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April 13, 2026

Minnesota House of Representatives
Committee on Energy Finance and Policy

RE: House File 2317 – Wastewater treatment facility heat capture pilot program funding provided, and money appropriated.

Dear Co-Chairs Acomb and Swedzenski, and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for HF 2317, which would appropriate \$3,000,000 from the Renewable Development Account for a pilot program to capture waste heat from wastewater treatment facilities to provide heat through integration with district energy systems.

This bill seeks to advance an innovative technology that could provide a much-needed heating solution to communities across the state. We know this firsthand because the City of Saint Paul demonstrated this potential through Clean Heat St. Paul. A study has been completed in partnership with the City's hometown utility, District Energy St. Paul, the largest hot water district system in North America serving most of downtown Saint Paul. Results of the study indicate that wastewater energy capture from the Metropolitan Council's Wastewater Treatment Plant can serve as consistent, sustainable, and cost-stable heating resource. The City of Saint Paul has committed to reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, as outlined in our Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP). Meeting those goals requires urgent, targeted investment in proven low-carbon building technologies, and the pilot program is exactly that kind of investment. Our updated CARP, currently being finalized, reaffirms that decarbonizing our built environment is a top priority.

Clean Heat St. Paul is one of the largest single-project GHG emissions reduction opportunities in the Building Sector in Minnesota. It can decarbonize the heating for hundreds of buildings on District Energy St. Paul's network at once. This collaboration brings together decades of district energy expertise and municipal commitment. Our CARP is explicit that the costs and benefits of clean energy investment must be equitably distributed, with priority given to communities most burdened by climate impacts and rising energy costs. Recovering waste heat will stabilize energy costs for District Energy St. Paul and its customers, including 2,000 units of subsidized affordable housing it currently serves.

These benefits could be gained in other communities across the state as well where there are

800 public wastewater treatment facilities near communities. HF 2317 would provide critical state support to quantify these benefits and energy sources available statewide.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to advance HF 2317.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kaohly Her", written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

Mayor Kaohly Her
City of Saint Paul