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The Honorable Michael Nelson
Chair, Minnesota House Committee on Labor and Industry Finance and Policy
State Office Building Room 585
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Nelson 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. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on House File 772 (Kraft).

Fresh Energy supports House File 772, which would put Minnesota's commercial building sector on a path to achieve an eighty percent improvement in annual net energy consumption by 2036. This is a practical, substantive and common-sense approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the building sector for several reasons:

- It recognizes the importance and value of Minnesota's established process for regularly reviewing and updating the commercial energy code under the oversight of the Construction Codes Advisory Council (CCAC).
- It sets an achievable and measurable benchmark for evaluating progress and success.
- By taking action now, the Legislature can set a long term roadmap with a clear end target while preserving flexibility for the existing codes adoption process to determine appropriate incremental steps in concert with industry stakeholders.

Accelerating progress in emissions reduction from the commercial building sector is critical to achieving reductions consistent with broader scientific consensus goal of reaching net-zero emissions economy-wide by mid-century. Increasing emissions from the building sector is directly undermining the progress that Minnesota is making in other areas of our economy, and we must bend that curve in order to have any hope of achieving decarbonization at a pace consistent with the consensus of our best scientific leaders.

Minnesota has the technology and ingenuity to achieve solutions that work for our climate and our economy. House File 772 puts us on a track to harness that opportunity, and we encourage members to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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