



3100 Humboldt Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55408
January 22, 2021

RE: HF 164 /SF 227

Dear Chair and Members of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

The Electrical Association is an organization of 400 Electrical Contractors and Electrical Employers and provides education, workforce strategies and government advocacy for its members, most of whom are small employers throughout the State of Minnesota.

I am writing to urge adoption of the Energy Conservation and Optimization Act HF164. The bill would immediately open up lines of business and workforce stability for electrical contractors while building a more energy efficient, cleaner, greener Minnesota.

Technologies that may be installed under ECO incentives include, but are not limited to:

- Air source heat pumps and water heaters under the fuel-switching provisions.
- Energy efficiency paired with load management technologies such as, advanced lighting systems with networked controls
- and Load Optimization technologies such as equipment that enables appliances and systems, like water heaters, to draw energy during off peak times.

Energy efficiency rebates provide a mechanism to reduce the timeframe of return on investment to encourage investment in energy efficiency projects instead of continuing operations with less efficient equipment. Energy efficiency projects provide income for our contractor members and product service members alike.

As we learned during the last recession, individuals that are laid off don't necessarily return to the same industry. My hope is HF 164 will help preserve Minnesota's electrical talent and enable untapped economic opportunities when needed most.

ECO has the potential to retain workforce opportunities all over the state by adding the next generation of technologies to the highly successful energy efficiency programs offered through the Conservation Improvement Program. In addition to providing residents and businesses more opportunities to save money on their energy bills, the ECO Act will send a clear market signal, which will retain or save skilled jobs, create economic opportunities, and allow residents and businesses to save money through these cost-effective programs, when needed most.

Please adopt HF 164. Not only does this language create the next step in energy efficiency, it helps businesses throughout the state maintain their workforce and stay in business.

Best regards,
Michelle Dreier
Member Engagement & Govt. Affairs Mgr - Electrical Association