



February 24, 2022

Minnesota House of Representatives
Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee
State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for municipality adoption of new model commercial energy code

Dear Chair Long and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of municipality adoption of the most recently published new model commercial energy code ASHRAE 90.1. We support this bill because it provides a clear pathway for cities to lower energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions in commercial buildings. Allowing cities to move forward in a time-efficient manner to adopt a published commercial energy code will also strengthen our state's clean energy businesses through clear policy leadership.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonprofit organization representing the business voice of clean energy in Minnesota. We work to help educate Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy and are committed to growing and strengthening Minnesota's clean energy business ecosystem. Our membership consists of more than 40 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations which employ thousands of Minnesotans across the state.

We thank Chair Long and Committee Members for their leadership to advance this important legislation. Minnesota's commercial and large multi-family buildings make up roughly 19.5% of the state's energy consumption.¹ Allowing municipalities to adopt a new model commercial energy code is a pragmatic policy opportunity that will reduce energy waste, improve building efficiency, and save money. Improving energy efficiency in buildings is simply a smart economic decision and one that benefits all Minnesotans - creating jobs and driving down emissions.

Today, over 41,000 Minnesotans work in energy efficiency comprising nearly 75 percent of our state's 55,300 clean energy jobs.² In addition, CEEM and its member businesses know that climate risk is business risk. State policies, including HF 831, that support swift progress towards a thriving and prosperous clean energy future send a powerful signal that Minnesota is open for business – attracting private sector investment and supporting local job creation.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our support for this bill and we look forward to its passage. Questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Damian", is written over a thin horizontal line.

George Damian
Director of Government Affairs
gdamian@cleanenergyeconomymn.org

¹ Improving building energy efficiency in commercial and multi-family construction - Recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry and the Minnesota Department of Commerce informed by stakeholder workgroup activities and discussions. December 2020 (Based on 2017 data) <https://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/BuildingsEnergyEfficiency2020.pdf>

² 2021 Clean Jobs Midwest – MN report <https://www.cleanenergyeconomymn.org/clean-jobs-midwest>