



March 23, 2026

Dear Chair Acomb and Members of the House Energy Finance & Policy Committee,

My name is Paolo Speirn, and I am the Geothermal Program Developer for Cooperative Energy Futures. I am writing in support of HF 4122, the bill allowing public utilities to fulfill their obligation to serve via thermal energy networks.

Cooperative Energy Futures is a member-owned, democratically-run clean energy developer. We support HF 4122 because it opens the door for utilities to provide heating and cooling services with low or no carbon emissions.

Thermal energy networks represent a key solution to decarbonizing buildings in our state's cold climate. By exchanging heat with the stable near-surface temperature of the earth, they can heat and cool over four times more efficiently than an equivalent natural gas furnace.

Allowing public utilities to deploy thermal energy networks will have significant benefits for Minnesota. It will help us meet our state's emissions reductions goals and clears a path for utilities to transition their business model away from natural gas. Additionally, the construction of thermal energy networks can provide family-sustaining jobs for decades to come, ensuring we have a robust green energy workforce in our state.

Cooperative Energy Futures supports allowing public utilities to leverage this technology to help meet our state's carbon reduction goals.

Sincerely,
Paolo Speirn

Geothermal Program Developer
Cooperative Energy Futures