



March 22, 2022

Sen. Jason Rarick
MN Senate Building, Room 3411
95 University Ave W
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Jamie Long
517 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Rarick and Representative Long,

On behalf of the Awood Center, I am writing to express our full support for HF4183 (Long)/ SF3973 (Rarick) to appropriate funds to Unidos MN and New Justice Project to create pathways into green construction careers for workers of color in Minnesota.

Minnesota's economy is marked by deep disparities between white residents and people of color. Across almost every measure—educational attainment, labor force participation, unemployment, income, and poverty levels—white residents fare better than residents of color. These disparities are rooted in structural barriers such as unequal access to education, occupational segregation, and discrimination in the labor market. A recent study of Amazon warehouse workers in Minnesota by the National Employment Law Project found that Black workers' monthly earnings were only 63 percent of white workers' monthly earnings. These workers—who are disproportionately people of color—are also far more likely to be injured on the job.

HF4183 (Long)/ SF3973 (Rarick) would invest in a pathway to high-quality green economy careers for workers of color in Minnesota. The legislation invests in a program that tackles root causes of racial inequities in our state's economy by ensuring access to educational opportunities, addressing occupational segregation, and providing access to career pathways that offer family-sustaining wages and benefits. This legislation represents the kind of workforce development strategy that can create a more equitable economy in our state.

We strongly support HF4183 (Long)/ SF3973 (Rarick).

Sincerely,

Abdirahman Muse

Abdirahman Muse
Executive Director - The Awood Center