

March 27, 2024

Minnesota House of Representatives
Committee on Climate and Energy Finance and Policy
State Office Building, Room 200
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 4759 - Geothermal energy systems installation feasibility assessment grants

Dear Chair Acomb and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of House File 4759, a bill that establishes a grant program to local governments to assess the feasibility of installing geothermal energy systems. This grant program will be a valuable tool as local governments look for various ways to achieve their carbon-free goals.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We are focused on educating Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy. Our business membership is comprised of over 60 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state. CEEM stands committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive.

The geothermal feasibility planning grant will serve as a crucial step in determining effective demand for geothermal energy, helping to develop improved strategies that can help promote the technology. Geothermal systems carry the potential for significant energy cost savings and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. This grant program will allow local governments to gain insight through feasibility studies to ensure a geothermal project will integrate well with existing infrastructure. As Minnesota continues its path toward economy-wide decarbonization by 2050, encouraging broader adoption of technologies that the Inflation Reduction Act already incentivizes is a strategy our organization strongly supports.

We thank Chair Acomb for authoring the bill. If you have any questions, please let us know. Thank you.

Sincerely,



George Damian
Director of Government Affairs
gdamian@cleanenergyeconomymn.org



Chandra Her
Policy Associate
cher@cleanenergyeconomymn.org