

March 6, 2023

Honorable Rep. Zack Stephenson
MN House of Representatives Commerce Finance and Policy Committee Members

Dear Members,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our support for the **MN Climate Innovation Finance Authority** (MnCIFA/[HF2336/SF2301](#)).

With the recent 100% Carbon Free Electricity standard, Minnesota is poised to lead the nation on greenhouse gas reductions. To realize these goals we need a state-level, mission-driven institution that will help drive the use of a wide-array of financial tools to accelerate the transition to clean energy; mitigate climate disruption; and make Minnesota's infrastructure more resilient to climate change. At the same time we need an institution that centers environmental justice by serving those left behind in the current financial market.

Currently, 23 green finance authorities in states across the U.S. have turned \$2.5 billion in public funds into \$9 billion in green investment. Leveraging private investment means our state can do more.

A MnCIFA will capitalize on federal Inflation Reduction Act opportunities, and center communities who have been historically left behind, ensuring everyone is able to be part of, and realize the benefits from, our transition to renewable energy. This investment will drive the creation of a clean energy workforce, and will help communities reduce the cost of energy. Projects could include renewable energy projects such as solar, wind or geothermal projects; energy efficiency projects such as lighting, or insulation; greenhouse gas reduction projects such as regenerative agriculture projects; and clean water projects.

MnCIFA will be an independent, public and politically responsive authority, overseen by a board with professional staff. MnCIFA will have strong consumer and labor standards. MnCIFA will be tasked with creating a strategic plan and investment strategy that will engage stakeholders from environmental justice groups. For all these reasons, we are excited for the potential of this entity to address gaps in current funding and provide a democratic process for engagement that will serve Minnesota for decades to come.

We enthusiastically support the Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority ([HF2336/SF2301](#)) and are excited that Minnesota will be one of the national leaders in equitably funding our transition to renewable energy and climate mitigation.

Signed by:

Julia Nerbonne, Executive Director, Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL)

Michael Noble, Executive Director Fresh Energy

Aurora Vautrin, Policy Director, 100% Campaign

Bob Blake, Executive Director, Native Sun

Bob Blake, CEO, Solar Bear LLC

Susan Phillips, Executive Director, Climate Generation

Jenna Warmuth, Vote Solar

Timothy DenHerder-Thomas, General Manager, Cooperative Energy Futures

Tee McClenty, Executive Director, MN350 & MN350 Action

Kevin Whelan, Deputy Director, Honor the Earth

Beth Gendler, Executive Director, Jewish Community Action

Karen Willis, Executive Director, Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA)

Alice Madden, Community Power

Kyle Samejima, Minneapolis Climate Action

Duane Ninneman, Executive Director, Clean Up the River Environment (CURE)

Deborah Nelson, Lakeville Friends of the Environment

Mary Hernandez, Mi CASA MN

Bobby King, State Director, Solar United Neighbors

Kathryn Milun, President, Solar Commons

Tamela K. Walhof, Director, Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota

Simon Eddy, Technical Sales, Real Solar

Andrea Lovoll, MN Center for Environmental Advocacy

(pending process) Margaret Levin, Executive Director, Sierra Club Northstar Chapter

Jack Hurbanis, EcoFaith Network of the Minneapolis Area Synod ELCA

W.J. McCabe, Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America