

100%

100% Campaign
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March 27, 2022

Chair Long and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for provisions of the Department of Commerce's Supplemental Energy Bill, Revisor # 22-07413.

Minnesota has a unique opportunity in 2022 to invest in equitable climate solutions that will bring tangible co-benefits to families and communities across the state. With a state budget surplus, incoming federal funds from both the American Rescue Plan Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the possibility of a Capital Investment bill, we have the means this year to make historic investments in our homes, schools, and communities.

Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan have made several meaningful proposals to do this in Revisor # 22-07413. Four stand out.

First, **we applaud the Governor's proposal to invest \$34.5 million in the Weatherization Assistance Program** in 2023, followed by \$14 million in 2024 and \$10 million in 2025. This is a proven program that will deliver safer, cleaner, and more affordable homes for 10,000's of Minnesotans who need them the most. We encourage the Committee to match and then exceed this proposal, include funding for pre-weatherization services, and then sustain that funding until we have weatherized all the homes that have requested it.

The Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams has estimated that in 2017 there were 498,000 Minnesota households that were eligible for energy assistance. Of those, in 2017, only 1,700 received Weatherization Assistance. At this rate, it would take 291 years to improve every eligible home in Minnesota. We can accelerate this work through these investments this year.

Second, we agree with Governor Walz that **it's time to expand Minnesota's Solar on Schools** program. According to the Department of Commerce's presentation to this Committee on March 17, 2022, the state was able to support 80 of the 122 grant applications they received during the program's first year. There is clearly unmet demand. We encourage the Committee to support the Administration's \$3 million proposal and expand it, as needed, to reach all our interested schools.

Third, **we support the Governor's \$34 million capitalization of and \$100,000 per year ongoing support for the Green Innovation Finance Fund.** This fund is a great example of how we can accelerate the deployment of clean energy projects in underserved areas in consultation with key stakeholders. This fund would mean cleaner technology, good jobs, more affordable buildings, and healthier communities across Minnesota. Please include support for this program in the Committee's omnibus bill this year.

Finally, **we applaud the Governor and Lt. Governor for proposing a Minnesota State Competitiveness Fund.** The programs of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, if realized in Minnesota, could be transformative. By demonstrating our commitment to match and exceed these federal investments, Minnesota will be better positioned to secure the competitive funds the law created. This fund is a strategic down payment on warmer, more affordable buildings, a more reliable and resilient electrical grid, and a thriving clean tech innovation ecosystem in Minnesota.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
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