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February 24, 2026

The Honorable Chair Baker and Chair Pinto
Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy
Minnesota House of Representatives
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Baker and Pinto and Committee Members,

My name is Sam Friesen, and I am writing to provide comments on behalf of Fresh Energy. Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on HF3663.

Over the last decade, Minnesota has been severely impacted by extreme weather events, raising the cost of infrastructure, energy, and insurance. While we cannot control nature, we can control the infrastructure we build. Codes are a critical tool that Minnesota has available to protect people and property. The codes of the past are not sufficient to meet the climate conditions of today, and it is costing Minnesota through higher energy bills, higher insurance premiums, and more. Our state's codes are only effective if properly implemented and enforced. Properly training the code officials across the state on the tools industry uses to make compliance as simple as possible is essential to building and maintaining a resilient and self-reliant infrastructure across Minnesota. Local officials tasked with protecting our infrastructure need resources in order to be most effective in their job. This funding bill is the first step in providing those resources.

We encourage Chairs Baker and Pinto and the Committee Members to say yes to HF3663 and provide our officials with the tools they need to effectively implement codes that will save money for Minnesota families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sam Friesen

Managing Director, Buildings

Fresh Energy