



January 31, 2023

RE: Support for advanced commercial building energy code

Honorable Chair Acomb and members of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

The Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) supports legislation advancing the State commercial building energy code. The proposed legislation would ensure:

- the most recent American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1 commercial building energy code is adopted upon the Department of Energy's determination that such code improves energy efficiency beginning in 2024.
- that the energy code advances energy efficiency and resilience requirements such that newly constructed commercial buildings may be fully fueled by carbon-neutral energy sources by 2036.

CEE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization based in Minneapolis, MN with expertise in energy efficiency that traces back over 40 years. CEE's mission is to discover and deploy the most effective energy solutions that strengthen the economy and improve the environment. A key component to accomplishing that is supporting energy efficiency in new buildings through in-the-field energy efficiency research on new construction, often with through the State of Minnesota's Conservation Applied Research and Development (CARD) grant program, and by working with utility programs and city code officials to maximize the energy code implementation.

Furthermore, this legislation is valuable for Minnesota compete for federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law dollars to improve energy code and its implementation throughout the state. CEE is leading the proposal team along with Department of Commerce and Department of Labor and Industry and others for the federal Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation program.

This legislation is the result of multiple years of stakeholder discussion, including a joint Department of Commerce and Department of Labor and Industry process held in 2019-2020. We are delighted to have been part of those discussions and to support this important legislation moving forward.

We support energy efficient new construction because it one of the most impactful and cost-effective ways the State can enhance the comfort and health of people, reduce costs for building owners, and make progress toward State energy goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katie Jones'.

Katie Jones
Community Program and Policy Manager
Center for Energy and Environment