



**May 1, 2023**

**TO: Members of the Jobs and Labor Conference Committee | SF 3035**

**RE: Clean Economy Equitable Workforce  
(Change Items 4/30/23 Spreadsheet Line 243)**

We are writing to urge your support for funding a strong diverse and well-trained workforce in the field of clean energy. A succession transition to a clean, efficient energy economy in Minnesota presents a valuable opportunity to tackle the inequities in our state's economy.

The Clean Economy Equitable Workforce proposal would create a new competitive grant program to be administered by DEED. **It is funded in the house position with one-time money for one million in 2024 and two million in 2025. (Line 243 of the spreadsheet of change items released on 4/30/23). We strongly urge adoption of this position in the final conference report.**

Minnesotans of color experience a challenging labor market. The compounding effects of systemic racism, disparate educational opportunities, occupational segregation, and employment discrimination have many our economy one of the most inequitable in the country.

This proposal would:

- Invest in partnerships between union construction apprenticeship programs that work in clean energy and efficient and community organization with deep networks within BIPOC and immigrant communities across Minnesota.
- Provide a pathway for BIPOC Minnesotans into union construction trades.
- Ensure that Minnesota is developing the workforce that is needed to power the state's transition to a green economy.

As we transform our energy sector through the massive investments in green technologies and energy, we have the opportunity to also invest in the historically marginalized workforce to create a much more equitable future for BIPOC communities.

We ask for your support by adopting the house proposal for funding this crucial new program, which is supported by a diverse set of stakeholders including: Tending the Soil, a collaboration



of: Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha (CTUL); Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia (IX); the New Justice Project; SEIU Local 26; and Unidos MN | LIUNA | Fresh Energy | 100% Campaign.