

100%

100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
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March 6, 2023

Chair Acomb and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for House Files 849 (Hollins), 2014 (Bierman), and 1973 (Acomb).

Minnesota is transitioning to a more equitable and clean energy economy. That's good news. It's popular with Minnesotans and it means tangible improvements in all of our lives. The three bills before the committee today reflect this can-do attitude and would set the state on the path to being a better home for everyone.

We support House File 849, Rep. Hollins' bill to support upgrading electric panels in residential buildings. In order to fully participate in our clean energy transition, Minnesotans need to upgrade their homes with better, cleaner technology like electric panels built to support higher loads of electricity. This bill would support both single-family and multifamily homes with a reasonable (and capped) grant award of \$2,500 per residence or up to \$12,500 per multifamily residence. Its design to phase in the benefits to families who need it most for the first year is a model for how to make the policy equitable; its expansion in the second year is designed to make the program accessible to everyone. We strongly support this approach.

We support Rep. Bierman's House File 2014, a bill to support the pre-weatherization home repairs and our home repair workforce. The transition to a clean energy economy means better homes for Minnesotans, homes that are more energy efficient, less costly, and better prepared for a climate adapted future. Our existing state weatherization is trusted and effective, but still has gaps. Due to eligibility requirements in federal law, some Minnesotans are denied weatherization services until their homes receive underlying repairs. This bill would address that gap by a) improving outreach to homeowners, b) investing in pre-weatherization improvements, and c) supporting the recruitment and training of the auditors, installers, and contractors who make the improvements. This is a long overdue and urgently needed solution.

We support House File 1973, Rep. Acomb's bill to update Minnesota's statewide greenhouse gas emissions goals. Our existing state goals, put in place in 2007, have fallen behind the internationally recognized, science-based goals of cutting economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions in half (from 2010 levels) by 2030 and reaching net-zero by 2050. The bill would then add protections to make sure the actions taken to meet these goals do not adversely impact the communities that have already been exposed to pollution affecting public health or environmental quality. When we come together, Minnesotans can accomplish great things. This goal is a North Star for creating a cleaner and more equitable Minnesota.

Please support House Files 849, 2014, and 1973.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aurora Vautrin

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Legislative Director

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