



January 30, 2023

Re: HF 772 – Energy Code Components of State Building Code

Chair Acomb and members of the House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 772. We thank the author, Rep. Kraft, for his work on this issue and support the proposed changes to the schedule and progression of energy code requirements.

Meeting the state’s goals on carbon and greenhouse gas emission reductions will take significant effort and the energy standards we use for larger commercial and multistory residential structures will need to be consistently reviewed and strengthened to achieve those results. The State Building Code sets the standards that must be met in new or substantially retrofitted structures and prohibits local requirements that differ from that code. The current state schedule for the amendment and adoption of more stringent building and energy codes is not adequate to result in the state meeting those goals in larger commercial and multistory residential structures.

The League of Minnesota Cities, through the adoption of policy *SD-30. Advanced Energy Building Standards* by our Board of Directors in its 2023 City Policies, recognizes the importance of establishing advanced building energy performance standards for commercial and multi-story residential construction. The pacing of the updates to the standards and scope of affected properties is consistent with LMC policy recommendations, although we believe that the intended date for reaching net zero carbon emissions found in line 2.24 should be 2036, not 2038.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Craig A. Johnson'.

Craig A. Johnson
Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities