



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

03/25/2026

Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, MN

Co-Chair Frieberg, Co-Chair Quam, and Members of the Committee:

The BlueGreen Alliance is pleased to support HF 4348, which updates Minnesota statute to classify thermal energy networks (TENs) as public improvements and waterworks, enabling municipalities to plan, own, and—most critically—bond for these systems.

Bonding authority is essential for increased adoption of these networks. While TENs provide long-term cost savings and major efficiency gains, they require substantial upfront capital. Treating these systems like other public utilities, such as water or sewer, allows cities to pursue proven, low-cost public financing tools and to leverage federal funds much more effectively.

Public financing also helps ensure equitable access. Without bonding authority, these projects are more likely to be limited to private developments or high-income districts. By enabling cities and towns to lead, HF 4348 supports deployment in a way that centers community needs, public accountability, and puts hardworking women and men in the skilled trades to work.

Minnesota communities are looking for practical, affordable options to reduce energy costs and modernize infrastructure. HF 4348 gives them the statutory tools they need to move forward.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to advance HF 4348.

Sincerely,

Ryan Gilbertson
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