



April 16, 2024

Dear members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

AIA Minnesota would like to express its support for HF 5312, which modernizes both the function of and funding for the sustainable building guidelines.

These guidelines have become an essential tool in the architect's climate action and resiliency toolbox, with its measurable goals and technical support from the University of Minnesota's Center for Sustainable Building Research (CSBR).

Hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars have been saved by designing public buildings to perform at the high standards required by these guidelines; architects wish to see this program continue to provide these significant cost savings to Minnesotans and to set an example for the private sector that demonstrates building to these standards pays off in both the near and long term.

The data collected from Minnesota's public buildings related to energy cost savings and return on investment for public buildings built to these standards has helped the private sector understand what is possible and the opportunity to both create resilient built environments and achieve operational cost savings.

The 2023 Legislative Auditor's report reinforced the need to clarify and strengthen the administrative structure around the guidelines. This bill clearly lays out the objectives of the guidelines, creates a well-defined administrative structure under the highly competent oversight of the Department of Administration, and preserves the ability of the Center for Sustainable Building Research to continue supporting the design and construction community in creating resilient, efficient buildings that are already using our tax dollars wisely. In addition, the bill provides the necessary funding for these activities to ensure the guidelines, procedures and oversight are done well.

We would like to thank Representative Reyer and Chair Lee for their work crafting this bill and support for sustainable and resilient design. We urge this committee to support the policy changes and funding request in order to continue to produce Minnesota's high-performance public buildings for today and in years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Kalar".

Amy Kalar, AIA, NOMA

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