



January 25, 2021

Chair Jamie Long
517 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act (HF 164)

Dear Chair Long and Members of the House Energy and Climate Finance and Policy Committee,

Thank you for hearing the Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act, we ask you to support this bill.

Minnesota's Conservation Improvement Program ("CIP") has been highly successful, delivering savings on customer energy bills, providing over \$6 billion in net benefits to the state, and supporting over 45,000 local jobs in every corner of Minnesota. Yet, since its inception, the CIP energy efficiency framework has limited customer energy efficiency programs to opportunities within defined siloes – electric technologies to reduce electric consumption and natural gas technologies to reduce natural gas consumption. Consumers could reduce their total energy costs further by modifying the timing of their energy consumption through load management programs and by switching to more efficient technologies and lower carbon fuels. CIP has historically not recognized these energy and cost savings opportunities that can facilitate cleaner and more efficient uses of energy.

We support the ECO Act, as it will promote technology innovation and implementation. ECO would expand CIP to include load management and efficient fuel-switching, while protecting traditional energy efficiency, increasing CIP's ability to offer additional efficient choices for customers and support local job opportunities. By unleashing technology innovation and creating new utility programs to install these technologies, ECO would help save customers energy and money while supporting local economies. Jobs supported by ECO are inherently local jobs in electrical, heating/cooling, ventilation, and insulation installation. These types of projects are typically designed and completed by local businesses and installed by state licensed contractors, using locally sourced products. ECO will expand workforce opportunities all over the state, by adding the next generation of technologies to the highly successful energy efficiency programs offered through CIP, providing residents and businesses more opportunities to save money on their energy bills and creating economic opportunities when needed most.

In order to take advantage of Minnesota's most cost-effective energy resource, **we strongly support adoption of the Energy Conservation and Optimization Act.** The ECO Act will unlock innovation, generate cost savings for utility customers, create new jobs opportunities, and reduce CO₂ emissions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Chris Duffrin
President