



March 6, 2023

Representative Robert Bierman
579 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 2014 – state supplementary weatherization grants

Dear Representative Bierman:

I write to express the Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota's (CUB) support for HF 2014, which provides state supplemental grants for weatherization.

As you are well aware, energy is an important part of a household budget, especially for lower-income households. While an average Minnesota family spends about 2% of their income on energy, it can be upwards of 30% for low-income households.

CUB staff often speaks with Minnesotans about how to fix the ways that their homes leak heat or otherwise waste energy. This can make a really important difference for people who spend the highest share of their income on energy. Unfortunately, those same households are least able to afford investments in energy efficiency, even though it pays back dividends over the longer term. That's why the federally funded weatherization program is such an important resource.

In addition to reducing bills, weatherization helps people be more resilient to inflation, extreme temperatures, price spikes, and sustained periods of high fuel costs, like we are seeing now.

It's fantastic that Minnesota is receiving an increase in weatherization funding from the federal government. This bill is important in that will make the state prepared to act on that funding, so that it can benefit as many Minnesotans as possible.

Thank you for carrying this legislation.

Sincerely,

Annie Levenson-Falk
Executive Director

cc: Chair Patty Acomb
Mike Molzahn, Committee Administrator
Joseph Birkholz, Office of Governor Tim Walz