

100%

100% Campaign  
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April 5, 2022

Chair Bernardy and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for two items in the Higher Education Omnibus Bill, House File 3872, as amended by H3872DE3.

First, we are glad to see the bill includes \$7.5m in FY 23 (10.1-10.9) to fund sustainability measures across the University of Minnesota system. These funds would support two important strategies that would reduce the U of M's greenhouse gas emissions.

- **\$5m would fund comprehensive planning.** The development of a systemwide campus sustainability and utility master plan is an opportunity to bring together all the University's stakeholders: employees, students, neighbors, and the administration to create shared solutions that will lower costs, lower emissions, and create cleaner, healthier campuses.
- **\$2.5 million would support on-campus solar electricity generation.** This is an important down payment on what's possible for University facilities across the state. The U of M can reduce its energy costs and serve as a community leader by aggressively transitioning to on-campus solar.

Second, **we support the creation of a Green Training Program** at the University of Minnesota. The bill appropriates \$1.5m in FY 23 and \$1.394m ongoing on lines 11.6-11.12 and 31.1-33.21. The program would engage at least twenty-five kinds of frontline workers in program planning and then train those workers in important sustainability measures like how to reduce energy use and how to reduce and properly sort solid waste. This approach models how large institutions can work collaboratively with all their employees to create mission-oriented, solutions-focused approaches to tackling the climate change challenge we all share.

The University system is not only a place where we educate Minnesotans and create new knowledge. Its campuses have significant physical infrastructure, comparable in many ways to a municipality. Sustainability practices matter at the U of M. **The University is poised to provide leadership that surrounding institutions and communities will follow.**

Thank you for your work creating a world-class higher education system in Minnesota.

Sincerely,



**Chris Conry**

Campaign Director

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