

March 1, 2023

Dear members of the House Sustainable Infrastructure Committee,

My name is Sam Olbekson. I am an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation of Minnesota Ojibwe and am serving as the 2023 president of the American Institute of Architects Minnesota. On behalf of our more than 2,300 architects and design professionals, I am writing in support of House File 2170, which creates global warming impact standards for construction materials used in public projects.

AIA Minnesota supports efforts to achieve healthy built and natural spaces by promoting non-toxic building materials and supports the preference of products from manufacturers who have chosen to disclose the contents of their products transparently. Construction materials can significantly contribute to a project's overall carbon footprint through embodied carbon, and the production of those products also has an impact on our climate at a broader scale.

As the market for clean materials matures, we are seeing costs go down and options go up. The Buy Clean Buy Fair Act will further drive market adoption of healthier materials that reduce our climate impact and potentially drive down prices even further. Creating standards, product lists, and data reports will inform and empower developers of both public and private sector projects to make choices that have a lower impact on the future of our planet.

One of the many positives of choosing materials that are likely to be selected under these rules is that many of them are healthier for building occupants. Low-chemical paints and finishes, more efficient windows and envelopes that reduce drafts, and other products can improve user comfort and health.

Creating an environmental standards procurement task force to look at issues of implementation is an important piece of this proposal. Bringing together experts to determine how this program can operate most successfully, and looking specifically at things like financial incentives and how other states are handling "buy clean" efforts, will ensure we move forward in an intentional and informed way. AIA Minnesota's members are ready and willing to take part in that process. We also appreciate the bill includes both a waiver process and grants to assist Minnesota-based manufacturers, to provide some flexibility as the program gets underway.

We look forward to working within the pilot and long-range projects advanced by this bill and urge the committee to support its passage.

Sincerely,



Sam Olbekson, AIA, AICAE, NOMA  
President, AIA Minnesota  
Founder and CEO, Full Circle Indigenous Planning + Design

cc: Representative Kaela Berg



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March 22, 2023

Minnesota House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee  
593 Minnesota State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Acomb and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, nonprofit organization. Our mission is to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on House File 2170 (Rep. Berg).

Fresh Energy supports the Buy Clean and Buy Fair Minnesota Act. Climate change is an existential threat that is impacting our way of life. Climate change's complexity means that Minnesota must deploy every tool in the toolbox to meet the challenge. With the passage of the 100% carbon-free electricity standard earlier this year, Minnesota is well-positioned to rise to the occasion and tackle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from other sectors of the economy, while still growing our economy and creating jobs with family-sustaining wages.

By enacting House File 2170, Minnesota can lead by example in procuring products that have significantly lower GHG emissions impacts than traditional building materials. Importantly, this legislation uses a rigorous data-driven approach for quantifying the lifecycle emissions of steel, concrete, asphalt, and rebar in establishing a procurement standard for state construction projects.

In addition to following the best-available science, the legislation also establishes a grant program to help Minnesota manufacturers complete the required environmental product declarations. This provision will ensure that Minnesota businesses, powered by increasing amounts of carbon-free electricity, will be able to compete for state and federal construction bids requiring materials with lower embodied carbon.

Passing the Buy Clean and Buy Fair Minnesota Act is a critical step in ensuring we create a market where Minnesota can realize the economic and environmental benefits of climate action.

Sincerely,

Craig McDonnell  
Managing Director, Industry  
Fresh Energy  
[mcdonnell@fresh-energy.org](mailto:mcdonnell@fresh-energy.org)

March 22, 2023

Minnesota House of Representatives  
Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee  
State Office Building, Rm. 200  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 2170, Buy-Clean Buy Fair Minnesota Act

Dear Chair Acomb, Representative Berg and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), I write today supporting HF2170, the Buy Clean Buy Fair Minnesota Act. This legislation will allow Minnesota to lead by example in procuring products that have significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) impacts than traditional building materials while also helping to support the market for sustainable building materials.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We work to educate Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy and are committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive. Our business membership is comprised of nearly 50 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state.

Unprecedented federal investment in infrastructure and the clean energy economy along with a renewed focus on domestic and thoughtful sourcing of materials will further drive market adoption of sustainable materials that reduce our climate impact. Creating standards, product lists, and reports will empower public and private sector developers to have the information they need to make informed choices on what products they use in construction projects.

We appreciate the thoughtful creation of an environmental standards procurement task force to look at issues of implementation. Engaging with the affected industries as well as labor and environmental advocates is key to make sure all voices are heard. Bringing together experts to study similar programs in other states and countries will help to ensure this program's success and move Minnesota towards a clean economy future.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our thoughts on this proposal. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



George Damian  
Director of Government Affairs  
[gdamian@cleanenergyeconomymn.org](mailto:gdamian@cleanenergyeconomymn.org)

March 20, 2023

Dear Chair Acomb and Chair Dibble:

On behalf of the 29,000 members and family members of Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota, I am writing to express our strong support for the Buy Clean and Buy Fair Minnesota Act (HF2170/SF2156), which would help facilitate improvements to collect information on the greenhouse gas emissions of construction materials and authorize the Department of Administration and Department of Transportation to incentivize use of low-emission materials on certain state-funded construction projects.

LIUNA members are proud to build and maintain our state's transportation, water, energy, and building infrastructure. We recognize the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with production of construction materials, as well as the opportunity for Minnesota industry to benefit from growing demand for low-emission materials.

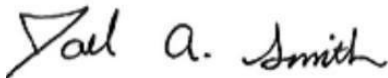
Minnesota is home to some of the nation's leading building and civil construction firms, and Buy Clean and Buy Fair legislation will provide opportunities for these firms to test strategies for lowering embedded emissions through the use of building materials produced using clean energy and low-emission processes.

This will, in turn, help position Minnesota-based manufacturers and suppliers of construction materials to capture a growing market for low-emission products. Finally, the bill will create opportunities for Minnesota's skilled union workforce to learn to use new low-emission building products on the job and through the state's best-in-class registered apprenticeship programs.

We thank Representative Berg and Senator Murphy for introducing this important legislation and urge the committee's support.

Thank you for your consideration.

In Solidarity,



Joel Smith  
President and Business Manager  
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota