



BLUEGREEN
ALLIANCE®

February 15, 2023

House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee
Chair Acomb
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, Suite 200
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Acomb and Committee members,

The BlueGreen Alliance urges the swift passage of HF 1656. The matching funds in the bill—20% of federal funds—are vital to ensuring that Minnesota’s workers and communities get maximum benefits from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)—also known as the Investment and Jobs Act). There is real danger that eligible entities will not be able to come up with matching requirements if there is not adequate state help. Our state’s infrastructure, economy, and environment cannot afford for us to come up short.

The American Society of Civil Engineers has given Minnesota only a “C” grade in its 2022 Infrastructure Report Card.¹ Around the state, water systems are failing to provide safe, healthy drinking water to residents, too many are left without access to opportunity due to a lack of broadband, and there is a lot of work needed—particularly in Greater Minnesota—to get ready for our clean vehicle future. The BIL invests in all of those and matching funds are needed to make them a reality.

We are urging the members of the Committee to move forward now with HF 1656 so we can get Minnesotans to work in good-paying, union jobs repairing roads and bridges, replacing lead service lines to ensure everyone has access to clean, safe drinking water, building out our broadband and energy grid, and installing electric vehicle chargers and other infrastructure needed for a clean energy future in our state.

Sincerely,

Abby Hornberger
Minnesota Policy Organizer
BlueGreen Alliance

¹ American Society of Civil Engineers, *2022 Minnesota Infrastructure Report Card*. Available online: <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/minnesota/>