

February 23, 2022

Chair Long and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our strong support for the bills being heard on Thursday, February 24, 2022. Taken together, these bills would go a long way to making sure Minnesota families and businesses can live and work in buildings that are more efficient, less expensive, lower emitting, and more equitable.

Over the next decade, **Minnesota has the opportunity to build better homes and businesses across the state.** To get there, we need to improve our standards, prepare more buildings for upgrades, and make sure our buildings can support the ongoing electrification of our transportation system.

House File 831, as amended by the DE3, would **allow cities to adopt the ASHRAE 90.1** model commercial energy code until the Minnesota Commissioner of Commerce adopts a stronger state code. This would meet the needs of multiple stakeholders by allowing cities to improve their buildings more quickly and fully in alignment with state and national standards.

House File XXX / BE 159 would **better prepare owners and tenants** of certain large commercial buildings to be able to lower their energy costs by implementing energy efficiency improvements. Benchmarking is a familiar, practical method for making sure everyone has the information we need to make sound decisions and smart investments.

House File XXX / AS 080 and House File 2234 would **support our ongoing transition to electric vehicles** by ensuring certain county-owned buildings and new or significantly remodeled commercial properties are built to support Minnesota drivers.

We can build a state that's cleaner and more equitable, with better homes and businesses statewide. Please support these bills that make this future more likely for all of us.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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