

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear Senator Mary Kiffmeyer:

My name is Jesse Green, and I am a local radon contractor and owner of American Radon Mitigation. I also serve as the president of the North Star chapter of AARST, with 41 members locally. AARST is a nonprofit, professional organization of members who are dedicated to the highest standard of excellence and ethical performance of radon measurement, soil gas mitigation, and transfer of information for the benefit of members, consumers, and the public at large.

I am writing in opposition to S.F. 295, radon licensing activities regulation transfer to the commissioner of labor and industry.

As a representative of the local radon contractors, I believe that radon should remain with the Department of Health, whose mission is to maintain and improve the health of all Minnesotans. Senator Draheim inaccurately cited carbon monoxide vs. radon deaths in the hearing on 2/23/22. I want to take an opportunity to educate you on the risks associated with radon. According to the CDC, 430 people die of carbon monoxide each year, while according to the EPA, 21,000 people die each year of radon-induced lung cancer. Therefore, radon is a public health issue.

The Department of Health has the expertise to manage the detailed and complex radon standards. They have successfully managed licensing and radon standards for the last 3+ years. The Department of Health also provides ongoing technical training and assistance to radon contractors in the field. The Department of Labor and Industry does not have this expertise and will not be able to provide this ongoing training or act as a resource for radon professionals. The amount of time and resources it would require to train the Department of Labor in the radon standards and the expertise that the Department of Health already possesses would be a massive undertaking. This lack of expertise could take years to match, if ever, due to competing demands at the Department of Labor. This lack of knowledge and expertise in the field, not the rulemaking time as mentioned in the previous hearing, is what will put Minnesotans at risk of unnecessary radon gas exposure and adverse health impacts.

Adding this burden to local building officials is also not a feasible solution. Many cities do not require permitting for radon mitigation, and those that do, lack the expertise to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of a radon system. In addition, the radon standards are detailed and complex to ensure safety and protection to the occupants. As such, they are not easily enforced without proper training and expertise, again leaving Minnesotans at risk of unnecessary radon gas exposure.

I appreciate your time and attention to the negative impacts passing bill S.F. 295 would have on the health and safety of all Minnesotans. I request that you reject this bill and keep radon with the Minnesota Department of Health.

Sincerely,

Jesse Green

Owner American Radon Mitigation  
President of North Start Chapter of AARST