

March 8, 2022

RE: MN SF295

TO: Mary Kiffmeyer, Chair, and Members, Senate State Government Finance and Policy and Elections Committee c/o Alec Biorn @ alec.biorn@senate.mn

FR: William J. Angell, Professor Emeritus, College of Design, University of Minnesota wangell@umn.edu

- Past President, American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologist www.aarst.org and North Star Chapter of AARST
- Chair, Board of Directors, Cancer Survivors Against Radon (CanSAR), www.CanSAR.org
- Chair, Mitigation Working Group, International Radon Project, World Health Organization www.who.int/ionizing_radiation/env/radon/en/
- Director Emeritus, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Radon Training Center

Madam Chair and Members,

Based upon my 47-year career as a building scientist, the last 35 years of which focused on control of indoor radon, I respectfully ask you to **vote no on SF 295** which proposes to transfer radon licensing from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI).

My request for your no vote to SF 295 is based upon several facts:

- First, while I have the upmost respect for Department, **DLI and local building inspectors simply lack the technical focus and expertise to administer the breadth of Minnesota's radiation and health-based radon program** including that relating to radiation measurement and quality assurance/quality control as well as radon mitigation in existing homes.
 - For good reason, nearly **all state radon programs are administered by health departments** or their equivalents.
 - **No state radon program is directed by a building code/licensing division.**
- Second, **national and state professional association**, the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologist (AARST) and its Minnesota-affiliated North Star Chapter **have consistently supported MDH's administration of our state's radon program**. This view is shared with that of Cancer Survivors Against Radon (CanSAR)
 - **MDH's Radon Program not only follows national, consensus-based standards** for radon mitigation, radon measurement, and radon quality assurance/quality control - - - **but MDH radon research staff members are respected leaders on the workgroups writing those national standards.**
 - **MDH's radon program, including radon mitigation, is consistently viewed as one of the top three programs in the United States.** MDH's radon program is especially respected for its collaborative, technical assistance approach to working with industry to achieve radon-risk reduction.

Please contact me with any questions or requests. Thank you.