



Center for Energy and Environment

March 23, 2023

Capital Investment Committee
Room 1100 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pappas, Vice-Chair Pha, Ranking Member Housley and Members of the Committee,

Center for Energy and Environment is pleased to support Senator Fateh's SF 1698, a bill to support the Sabathani Community Center's (SCC) Community Energy Project. This phase of the project will install a new district energy geothermal heat pump system for the main Sabathani building with future expansion to a new 72-unit multi-family housing being built on the Sabathani campus in 2024.

Sabathani's goal is to develop a Community Resilience Hub that supports their 87% BIPOC South Minneapolis community by securing energy for critical services such as their food shelf; providing a gathering place for times of extended power outages; dramatically reducing carbon emissions in a community that carries a heavy pollution burden; supporting workforce development for family-sustaining careers; building wealth and energy access in a community of color; and providing a demonstration site for clean-renewable energy.

CEE has been working with Sabathani Community Center (SCC) for almost three years to support their Community Revision Project that includes LED lighting upgrades, updated and energy-efficient geothermal heating and cooling systems, building insulation, a new roof, a solar PV system, a building automation system (BAS), and the community resiliency microgrid with back up battery energy storage systems that will be implemented by Xcel Energy. For decades, SCC has served Minneapolis as a critical community institution and we are pleased to use our expertise in energy efficiency and electrification to help them assess and support the installation and implementation of energy-efficient systems, carbon reduction measures, and cost-effective improvements.

We urge your support for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Duffrin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Duffrin, President
Center for Energy and Environment
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