



February 17, 2023

Dear legislators,

I submit this letter as written testimony in support of The Climate Justice Education Bill (SF 476). Climate change will be one of the most pressing issues for students currently enrolled in Minnesota's schools. If the current climate models are correct, within their lifetimes, those students will see a world with an average atmospheric temperature that is about 2.7°C hotter than today. Such an increase can be expected to disrupt agriculture. It will also result in many more extreme weather events that will also be much more intense, which will likely result in the displacement of large numbers of people due to drought, flood, or other disasters.

Since agriculture plays such an important role in Minnesota's economy and that our state will be a likely destination for those displaced by climate change, our children will be called upon to make the difficult decisions and take the actions necessary to respond to the disruptions caused by a substantially warmer world. They need to be prepared and armed with knowledge to be effective in those decisions and actions. Our children will need to understand the factors contributing to climate change and that exacerbate its harmful impacts. They will need to understand who is being the most harmed by climate change and the social and economic conditions that either magnify or mitigate those harms. And, most importantly, they need to be informed about strategies and interventions that would support the thriving of Minnesota's communities despite those harms.

SF 476 is an important step in building the educational infrastructure that is necessary to ensure that Minnesota's students receive the training they will need to become the leaders guiding the way for Minnesota to have a bountiful future despite climate change. SF 476 establishes necessary guidelines for curriculum. It sets standards that will ensure that classrooms include discussion of the key factors influencing how climate change impacts various communities as well as principles for good governance and identified strategies for responding to climate change. If enacted into law, SF 476 will help educators identify the content that will educate students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for them to be the innovators, entrepreneurs, and public servants that will lead Minnesota to a prosperous future.

For all the reasons listed above, I reiterate my support for The Climate Justice Education Bill. It helps to ensure that our children will have the opportunity to flourish despite the imminent threat of climate change.

Sincerely,

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