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Timberland
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Unilever
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VF Corporation
Workday*
Worthen Industries

January 19, 2023

Sen. Nick A. Frentz
Chair, Committee on Energy,
Utilities, Environment & Climate
Minnesota Senate

Sen. Tou Xiong
Vice Chair, Committee on Energy
Utilities, Environment & Climate
Minnesota Senate

Sen. Andrew Mathews
Ranking Minority Member, Committee on
Climate & Energy Finance and Policy
Minnesota Senate

Ceres BICEP Network Support for 100% Clean Energy by 2040 (SF 4)

Dear Chair Frentz, Vice Chair Xiong, and Ranking Minority Member Mathews:

On behalf of the [Ceres](#) Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy (BICEP) Network, a coalition of more than 80 major employers and manufacturers across the United States, several of whom have operations and facilities in Minnesota, **I write to express our support for the 100% Clean Energy by 2040 legislation (SF 4).**

We commend the Walz administration and House and Senate leaders for their commitment to fully decarbonizing the state's electricity mix by 2040, in alignment with the [Minnesota Climate Action Framework](#). While Minnesota's electric sector has made significant progress towards its decarbonization goals and is on track to achieve greater greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions through the Energy Conservation & Optimization Act of 2021, additional action like SF 4 is necessary to meet the state's longer-term goal of achieving an equitable net zero emission economy that benefits all Minnesotans.

The Ceres BICEP Network supports this legislation because it would help businesses address the significant risk posed by climate change, safeguard the competitiveness of their supply chains, and allow them to meet the growing demands of their customers and investors. Many Minnesota businesses have made ambitious commitments to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and have recently [voiced](#) their support for the state's transition to a net zero emission economy by 2050. Passage of SF 4 will help Minnesota grow a prosperous and equitable clean energy economy that allows companies to meet their climate goals.

SF 4 defines environmental justice areas and prescribes new and important regulatory requirements to consider impacts to environmental justice areas when evaluating utility proposals. As Minnesota transitions to a net zero economy, we must ensure that those who have historically borne a disproportionate burden of climate pollution are provided direct and equitable access to clean energy and are truly able to reap the benefits.

The businesses in our coalition take the urgent threat of climate change seriously and recognize the significant opportunity for Minnesota to do the same. Passing SF 4 is an important step to achieving the longer-term goal of carbon neutrality and will send a signal that Minnesota continues to be a leader in the transition to a clean energy economy.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony, and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Anne L. Kelly

Vice President Government Relations,

On behalf of Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy (BICEP)

For additional information, please contact Deana Dennis, Senior Manager of State Policy at Ceres (ddennis@ceres.org).

*The [Ceres BICEP Network](http://www.ceres.org/BICEP) comprises influential companies advocating for stronger climate and clean energy policies at the state and federal level in the U.S. **Ceres BICEP Members listed in bold on the page above have direct operations in Minnesota.** For more information on the Ceres BICEP Network, visit www.ceres.org/BICEP.