

February 24, 2023

Senator Nick Frentz
Chair - Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Frentz and members of the Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Croteau-Kallestad and I am a member of the Southeast Steering Committee for the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs). I write today in support of SF 1783, an appropriation for the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs). I am also a former staff person from the City of Northfield where I worked on the Climate Action Plan.

I find the CERTs resources and people valuable to the work of many organizations, especially to nonprofits and those with limited resources, who want to do work around clean energy. CERTs works statewide to equip people with resources to move energy efficiency and renewable energy projects forward. When I worked for the City of Northfield we received funding from CERTs for a solar study that helped guide some of the implementation of our Climate Action Plan. As a member of the steering committee I've had the honor to help select projects that will get SEED grants from CERTs. These grants have helped fill gaps and bridge other funding sources for many organizations working on energy efficiency, solar, etc. especially those serving underserved and under resourced communities.

There are ever more people and communities excited about and interested in advancing clean energy. CERTs has a proven track record of working in and with communities to advance their own clean energy goals. This additional funding will allow CERTs to staff up regional capacity around the State and ensure that the team is fully equipped to provide the necessary resources and programming to help communities advance their clean energy goals.

I encourage you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Croteau-Kallestad