

February 24, 2023

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

Hello,

My name is Sandy Malecha and I am a resident of Faribault, MN and my children attend Northfield Public Schools.

I have witnessed firsthand the incredible benefit of having trusted advisors from the Clean Energy Resource Teams equip people in my community with resources to move energy efficiency and renewable energy projects forward. This includes providing weatherization kits for families living in our area mobile home parks to winterize their homes, guides in multiple languages to support homeowners with energy efficiency improvements, and train-the-trainer support for community organizers seeking to make sure that all citizens have their voices heard as cities enact their climate action plans, to make sure those most directly impacted by extreme weather conditions have a say in how decisions are made for resource allocation. All of these efforts have a direct impact on the health and economic well-being of families.

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.

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. They have already been scaling up resources to help folks understand the Inflation Reduction Act and their educational resources – like around Air Source Heat Pumps – and project assistance – like for Solar for Schools – are essential to supporting local energy projects.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this important work.

Sincerely,  
Sandy Malecha