

100%

100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114
www.100percentmn.org

March 8, 2023

Chair Frentz and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Senator Xiong's Senate Files 1787 and 2301 and Senator Dibble's Senate Files 2201 and 2267.

Minnesota is transitioning to a more equitable and clean energy economy. That's good news. It's popular with Minnesotans and it means tangible improvements in all of our lives. The four bills before the committee would help homeowners, communities, and our state and local governments, themselves, fully participate in this future.

First, we support Senate File 1787, Senator Xiong's bill to support upgrading electric panels in residential buildings. In order to fully participate in our clean energy transition, Minnesotans need to upgrade their homes with better, cleaner technology like electric panels built to support higher loads of electricity. This bill would support both single-family and multifamily homes with a reasonable (and capped) grant award of \$2,500 per residence or up to \$12,500 per multifamily residence. Its design to phase in the benefits to families who need it most for the first year is a model for how to make the policy equitable; its expansion in the second year is designed to make the program accessible to everyone. We strongly support this approach.

Second, we support Senator Xiong's House File 2301, a bill to establish the Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority. The bill would create a new public financing authority focused on accelerating the deployment of clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction projects. The authority would fill an important niche in the Minnesota financing landscape: identifying underserved markets and the barriers that have left them underserved. The authority standards for lending would help ensure high-quality job creation and opportunities for workers from both host communities and environmental justice communities. Finally, the \$45,000,000 capitalization of the authority will help position Minnesota for success in our pursuit of competitive federal funding.

Third, we support Senate File 2201, Senator Dibble's bill to add climate resiliency to Minnesota's Sustainable Building Guidelines. This is a critical way to protect Minnesotans (and state investments) from projected climate change impacts like extreme precipitation or extreme heat. As we build or renovate using state capital investment funds we ought to be building for a climate-adapted future.

Finally, we support Senate File 2267, Senator Dibble's bill that creates a Supplemental Energy Assistance Fund. Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program is a trusted and reliable program. It protects Minnesota families from excessive energy and repair costs during the months when we most need warmer homes. Expanding eligibility and outreach, and supplementing (but not replacing) federal investments is a smart way to serve more Minnesota families.

Please support Senate Files 1787, 2301, 2201, and 2267.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aurora Vautrin

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Legislative Director

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