

March 12, 2023

Honorable Senator Nick A. Frentz  
Minnesota Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee Members

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our support for the **MN Climate Innovation Finance Authority** (MNCIFA/[HF2336/SF2301](#)).

With the recent 100% Carbon Free Electricity standard, Minnesota is poised to lead the nation on greenhouse gas reductions. To realize these goals we need a state-level, mission-driven institution that will help drive the use of a wide-array of financial tools to accelerate the transition to clean energy; mitigate climate disruption; and make Minnesota's infrastructure more resilient to climate change. At the same time we need an institution that centers environmental justice by serving those left behind in the current financial market.

Currently, 23 green finance authorities in states across the U.S. have turned \$2.5 billion in public funds into \$9 billion in green investment. Leveraging private investment means our state can do more.

A MNCIFA will capitalize on federal Inflation Reduction Act opportunities, and center communities who have been unable to access conventional markets, ensuring everyone is able to be part of, and realize the benefits from, our transition to renewable energy. This investment will drive the creation of a clean energy workforce and will help communities reduce the cost of energy. Projects could include renewable energy projects such as solar, wind or geothermal projects; energy efficiency projects such as lighting, or insulation; greenhouse gas reduction projects such as regenerative agriculture projects; and clean water projects.

MNCIFA will be an independent, public and politically responsive authority, overseen by a board with professional staff. MNCIFA will have strong consumer and labor standards. MNCIFA will be tasked with creating a strategic plan and investment strategy that will engage stakeholders from environmental justice groups. For all these reasons, we are excited for the potential of this entity to address gaps in current funding and provide a democratic process for engagement that will serve Minnesota for decades to come.

We enthusiastically support the Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority ([HF2336/SF2301](#)) and are excited that Minnesota will be one of the national leaders in equitably funding our transition to renewable energy and climate mitigation.

Signed by:

Julia Nerbonne, Executive Director,  
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL)

Michael Noble, Executive Director,  
Fresh Energy

Aurora Vautrin, Policy Director,  
100% Campaign

Bob Blake, Executive Director, Native Sun  
and CEO of Solar Bear LLC

Susan Phillips, Executive Director, Climate  
Generation

Jenna Warmuth, Midwest Regional Director,  
Vote Solar

Timothy DenHerder-Thomas, General  
Manager, Cooperative Energy Futures

Tee McClenty, Executive Director, MN350 &  
MN350 Action

Kevin Whelan, Deputy Director, Honor the  
Earth

Andrea Lovoll, Legislative Director, MN  
Center for Environmental Advocacy

Beth Gendler, Executive Director, Jewish  
Community Action

Karen Willis, Executive Director,  
Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social  
Justice Alliance (MUUSJA)

Alice Madden, Program Director,  
Community Power

Margaret Levin, State Director,  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Kyle Samejima, Minneapolis Climate Action

Duane Ninneman, Executive Director,  
Clean Up the River Environment (CURE)

Deborah Nelson,  
Lakeville Friends of the Environment

Mary Hernandez, Director, Mi CASA MN

Bobby King, State Director,  
Solar United Neighbors

Kathryn Milun, President, Solar Commons

Tamela K. Walhof, Director,  
Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota

Simon Eddy, Technical Sales, Real Solar

Jack Hurbanis, EcoFaith Network of the  
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W.J. McCabe, Chapter of the Izaak Walton  
League of America

Sam Streukens,  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

Nazir Khan, Campaign Director & Co-  
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John Farrell, Co-Director, Institute for Local  
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