

March 15, 2023

Minnesota Senate
Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate
Minnesota Senate Building, Rm 1150
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Senate File 2775 - Rebates for Residential Heat Pumps and Training Program for Installers

Dear Chair Frentz, Senator McEwen, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN, I write today regarding SF2775, establishing a rebate program for the purchase and installation of residential heat pumps and a program to train heat pump installers. New cold-climate heat pump technology can operate efficiently at as low as -20°F and can save homeowners 30%–55% on home heating costs. In Minnesota, there are nearly 585,000 households with electric or propane heat that stand to benefit significantly from a switch to heat pumps.¹ This bill is a commonsense approach to help homeowners cover costs associated with critical energy efficiency residential upgrades that also supports local energy jobs.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We work to educate Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy and are committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive. Our business membership is comprised of nearly 50 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state.

We thank Sen. McEwen for authoring this bill and thank Chair Frentz for hearing it in committee. This bill incentivizes homeowners to make home energy efficiency upgrades. Additionally, the state incentives, combined with the federal incentives detailed in the Inflation Reduction Act, will allow homeowners to maximize their cost savings while making necessary energy efficiency improvements that lower GHG emissions and help Minnesota meet its statewide emission reduction goals.

Today, over 42,200 Minnesotans work in energy efficiency comprising nearly 75 percent of our state's almost 58,000 clean energy jobs.² The program to train qualified heat pump installers, as detailed in the bill, will ensure there are qualified technicians able to do the work of increasing energy efficiency in homes across the state. This will work hand-in-hand with the rebate allowing more Minnesota residents to transition to high efficiency heat pumps to better regulate temperatures in their homes.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support. We look forward to the passage of SF2775. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



George Damian
Director of Government Affairs
gdamian@cleanenergyeconomymn.org

¹ MN Air Source Heat Pump Collaborative: <https://www.mnashp.org/>

² 2022 Clean Jobs Midwest Report: <https://www.cleanenergyeconomymn.org/clean-jobs-midwest>