



March 21, 2023

Chair Frentz and Committee Members,

I'm the Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Saint Paul where I coordinate the City's work on climate action and sustainability. I'm writing in support of HF 2269, the bill that would create a statewide energy benchmarking program.

In Saint Paul, the commercial and multifamily buildings over 50,000 square feet covered by our energy benchmarking ordinance account for 45% of all building energy use in the city and 25% of citywide greenhouse gas emissions. Having good information about building energy use allows for transparency in the real estate market and provides opportunities for us to identify and assist low-performing buildings.

The City of Saint Paul began our benchmarking work as a voluntary program in 2018 and moved to a city ordinance and mandatory program beginning in 2020. With our initial efforts, we were able to get about 19% of our larger buildings benchmarking under the voluntary program. Last year we hit 90% compliance with our mandatory benchmarking program, with 675 buildings in Saint Paul covered by the ordinance.

We have found that making the process easy for building owners/operators is key. We have conducted many trainings and webinars and provided one-on-one assistance to this end. Each year we take the time to recognize the good work of the owners and operators of some of our higher performing buildings.

We support this bill to make energy benchmarking a statewide requirement and would be happy to follow up with any further information that Committee members may need.

Sincerely,

Russ Stark  
Chief Resilience Officer