

100%

100% Campaign
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March 28, 2023

Chair Frentz and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for provisions in Senator Nick Frentz's Senate File 2847, as amended in SCS2847A-9.

Our transition to a cleaner, more equitable economy means real opportunities to improve the lives of Minnesotans. Senate File 2847, as amended, makes the most of these opportunities delivering better homes, new technologies, cleaner electricity, more transportation options, and stronger communities for Minnesotans.

First, we support the bill's commitment to building stronger communities through planning. In particular, we support:

- Energy Transition Grant Program: \$5m (RDA) in FY 24.

However, we strongly urge the committee to also invest in two additional program and one policy improvement to help Minnesota plan for the future:

- University of MN Weather Resiliency Program (SF 2547 - Frentz) for \$1m / year in FY 24, 25, 26, & 27
- Climate Action Planning Grants (SF 1388 - McEwen) for \$4m in FY 24
- Updating Next Generation Energy Act's economy-wide decarbonization goals, as in SF 2188 (McEwen)

Second, we strongly support the bill's commitment to vehicle electrification. In particular, we support:

- EV School Bus Grant Program: \$2m (GF) in FY 24 and \$5m (RDA) in FY 25, though we request the committee to raise this amount to \$14m in FY 24-25.

We also support the bill's appropriations for EV Rebates, EV Dealer Training and Certification, and Utilities' Transportation Electrification Planning.

Third, we strongly support the bill's commitment to improving our homes and buildings. In particular, we support:

- Pre-Weatherization and Workforce Training: \$23,970,000 (GF) in FY 24-25 and \$1,380,000 in FY 26-27 and \$10m (RDA) in FY 24-25
- Updating the Sustainable Building Guidelines to include climate resilience (Lines 28.12-28.32), though we encourage the committee to include a verification of plans by the University of Minnesota's Center for Sustainable Building Research, as in SF 1550 (Pappas)

Also, we request that the committee also consider:

- Creating a State Energy Policy Goal for existing commercial and residential buildings of a 50% reduction in energy use by 2035, as in SF 1759 (Mohamed).
- Funding a Weather Trend Study for State Buildings, as in SF 1180 (Pappas).

We also support the bill's proposals to invest in Strengthening Minnesota Homes, Home Improvement Grants, Residential Electric Panel Grants, Onsite Energy Storage Planning and Systems, Various Benchmarking Grants, Residential Heat Pump Rebate Program, New Energy Guidelines for State Buildings, Energy Code for New Commercial Buildings, and Air Ventilation Program Grants.

Fourth, we strongly support the bill's commitment to innovative financing and federal matching. In particular, we support:

- MN Climate Innovation Finance Authority: \$5m (GF) in FY 24, though we would urge the committee to raise the amount to at least \$20m
- State Competitiveness Fund in SF 1622: \$115m in FY 24

Fifth, we strongly support the inclusion of these three policy items:

- Buy Clean, Buy Fair (Lines 22.5-28.11)
- Intervenor Compensation (Lines 60.22-65.20)
- Tribal Advocacy Council on Energy (Lines 107.4-108.2)

However, we urge the committee to include three additional policy improvements:

- Improving Utility Diversity Reporting, as in SF 315 (Hawj)
- Improving Access to Solar in Homeowners Associations, as in SF 1003 (Coleman)

Sixth, we strongly support the bill's commitment to investing in solar energy. This includes the bill's proposals on Solar*Rewards, Solar on Community Colleges, Solar on Schools, Public Building Solar Grant Program, and Electric Grid Resiliency Grants.

Thank you for including these provisions in Senate File 2847, as amended in SCS2847A-9.

Please include them in the final version of Senate File 2847.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aurora Vautrin

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