

March 27, 2023

Honorable Chair 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](#)) to be included in the final Energy bill.

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.

Coalition in Support of MNCIFA/[HF2336/SF2301](#)

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

Kyle Samejima, Minneapolis Climate Action

Michael Noble, Executive Director, Fresh
Energy

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

Aurora Vautrin, Policy Director, 100%
Campaign

Deborah Nelson, Lakeville Friends of the
Environment

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

Mary Hernandez, Director, Mi CASA MN

Susan Phillips, Executive Director, Climate
Generation

Bobby King, State Director, Solar United
Neighbors

Jenna Warmuth, Midwest Regional Director,
Vote Solar

Kathryn Milun, President, Solar Commons

Timothy DenHerder-Thomas, General
Manager, Cooperative Energy Futures

Tamela K. Walhof, Director, Lutheran
Advocacy - Minnesota

Tee McClenty, Executive Director, MN350 &
MN350 Action

Simon Eddy, Technical Sales, Real Solar

Kevin Whelan, Deputy Director, Honor the
Earth

Jack Hurbanis, EcoFaith Network of the
Minneapolis Area Synod ELCA

W.J. McCabe Chapter of the Izaak Walton
League of America

Andrea Lovoll, Legislative Director, MN
Center for Environmental Advocacy

Sam Streukens, League of Women Voters of
Minnesota

Beth Gendler, Executive Director, Jewish
Community Action

Nazir Khan, Campaign Director & Co-
Founder, MN Environmental Justice Table

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

John Farrell, Co-Director, Institute for Local
Self Reliance

Alice Madden, Program Director, Community
Power

Thomas E. Casey, Chair, Friends of
Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas

Margaret Levin, State Director, Sierra Club
North Star Chapter

James Gignac, Midwest Senior Policy
Manager, Union of Concerned Scientists