

March 9, 2023

Dear members of the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee,

My name is Sam Olbekson. I am an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation of Minnesota Ojibwe and am serving as the 2023 president of the American Institute of Architects Minnesota. On behalf of our more than 2,300 architects and design professionals, I am writing in support of Senate File 2224, which incorporates renewable energy production into B3/SB 2030 building performance evaluation.

Since its adoption, the B3/SB 2030 program has drastically reduced the energy consumption and carbon footprint of publicly funded buildings in Minnesota. Stretching beyond the energy code has saved the state tens of millions of dollars, and has helped create a more sustainable, resilient built environment that is responsive to the impacts of climate change.

However, as design and construction practices have advanced to rise to the SB 2030 challenge, we are reaching a point in building performance when design alone cannot achieve significant further cost savings. Data shows that combining design best practices for sustainability and energy efficiency with renewable energy generation is the most effective way for Minnesota to achieve its climate action goals related to the built environment.

By clearly articulating the integration of renewable energy production into the B3 guidelines, we help our built environment continue to reduce its carbon footprint and climate impact. We respectfully ask you to advance SF 2224 this session.

Sincerely,



Sam Olbekson, AIA, AICAE, NOMA
President, AIA Minnesota
Founder and CEO, Full Circle Indigenous Planning + Design