



100% Campaign
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Chair Murphy and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Senator Champion's Senate File 466, the Frontline Communities Protection Act, and Senate File 1068, a bill dedicating a percentage of large settlement or civil penalties to community health solutions.

Senate File 466 would improve Minnesota's permitting process by assessing the cumulative impacts of pollution when conducting environmental review and permitting in environmental justice areas.

For too long, some communities in our state have borne more of the negative impacts of pollution, particularly, communities with larger percentages of residents who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color, lower-income families, and non-English speakers. We know that as climate change continues, these same communities are more vulnerable to climate impacts.

This bill would address this problem by creating a cumulative impacts analysis that would consider multiple sources of pollution, the demographics of the area, and input from a public hearing when considering whether to renew, approve, or conditionally approve a permit.

This bill is an important way to protect Minnesotans who live in environmental justice areas and it is a popular idea with Minnesota who don't. A January 2023 poll by Data For Progress found that among the 858 Minnesotans they asked "62 percent of voters want the Pollution Control Agency to consider all surrounding facilities when issuing air quality permits for new projects".

Senate File 1068 would help ensure that solutions funded by polluters are implemented where we need them most. The bill would require that 40% of the money that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency recovers from settlements due to permit violations be used for programs developed by local community health boards in collaboration with impacted communities. This requirement will help ensure that pollution impacts are not only stopped but are repaired in the places and with the people who have been affected.

As we transition to a cleaner and more equitable economy in Minnesota, we ought to minimize the harms and maximize the benefits for everyone. These bills move us in this direction.

Please support Senate Files 466 and 1068.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aurora Vautrin

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Legislative Director

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