

January 23, 2023

Minnesota Senate
Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Champion and members of the committee:

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of the confirmation of Steve Grove as Commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and Ida Rukavina as Commissioner of the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRRB). Both of these leaders understand the importance and possess the skills necessary to assist the private sector in creating good-paying jobs through economic development while diversifying and strengthening Minnesota's economy.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We work to educate Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy and are committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive. Our business membership is comprised of nearly 50 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state.

Commissioner Grove has brought private sector experience to his role as DEED Commissioner, with a focus on fostering our state's growing tech industries, developing and retaining a more diverse talent pool in the state, all while supporting strong economic development across Minnesota. Under his leadership, DEED has focused on growing the state's workforce and providing businesses and startups the support they need to grow and thrive in Minnesota.

Commissioner Rukavina brings a wealth of experience and a lifetime of serving Iron Range communities. She has served schools, cities, and townships across the area and deeply understands the needs of the community to bring good-paying jobs, strong schools, and resilient infrastructure to the Iron Range. Minnesota's Iron Range built America and with leaders like Commissioner Rukavina it can continue to help lead the clean energy transition, grow family sustaining jobs, and diversify Minnesota's economy.

Today, 58,000 Minnesotans are employed in well-paying energy efficiency and clean energy jobs.¹ These jobs have historically grown at twice the rate of overall state job growth and are

¹ 2022 Clean Jobs Midwest report, <https://www.cleanenergyeconomymn.org/clean-jobs-midwest>

poised to create thousands of new good-paying jobs accelerated by recently passed federal legislation providing 10 years of certainty. Strong commissioners with a keen understanding and foresight of how to capitalize on the economic opportunities ahead, will be key to ensuring Minnesota has a prosperous, equitable, and just clean energy transition.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for the confirmation of Commissioner Grove and Commissioner Rukavina. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



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