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March 1, 2023

Senator Jennifer A. McEwen
Chair of the Committee on Labor

Re: SF 1368 — Port: Energy code adoption modification for new commercial buildings

Dear Chair McEwen and Members,

The City of Minneapolis supports SF 1368, modifying the energy code adoption process for new commercial buildings. Deploying energy efficiency measures at the time of construction is the most cost-effective point to make efficiency investments that will save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for property owners and renters. Buildings account for approximately 40% of all the energy used in Minnesota and advancing the energy code is essential for helping Minnesota meet its renewable energy targets and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

Sustainable Building 2030 has long been required for state buildings and buildings receiving state bonding money. Minnesota's experience with SB 2030 positions us to successfully implement SF 1368 and capture the benefits of cost-effective, high-performance buildings for businesses and residents of multifamily properties. Building contractors and design professionals statewide are already familiar with the Sustainable Building 2030 energy standards developed by the State of Minnesota.

SB 2030 has resulted in energy efficient, resilient buildings for low- or no-cost with immediate energy savings. Existing Minnesota buildings meeting SB 2030 standards save tens of millions of dollars every year. In addition, clean energy measures are known to improve public health and support economic development, creating value that exceeds the minimal associated costs.

The best time to implement clean energy technologies is during the construction phase. This allows for the most effective, least-cost deployment of clean energy technologies. Please accept this letter of support and feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss the matter further.

Yours Truly,

Mayor Jacob Frey,
City of Minneapolis