

February 28, 2023

Dear members of the Senate Tax Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of the more than 2,300 architects and design professionals who are members of the American Institute of Architects Minnesota in support of Senate File 42, which provides tax credits for home energy improvements, electric vehicles, and renewable energy.

Architects are deeply committed to climate action. The built environment contributes as much as 40 percent to our carbon footprint, and the design of buildings is constantly evolving to reduce that impact. Whether commercial or residential, the choices owners make about how to create and operate their buildings have significant impacts on our Minnesota and global climate.

We believe tax credits like those proposed in this bill are a great way to incentivize upgrades and modernizations that will help us turn the tide of climate change. Homeowners need incentives to embrace technologies that may be outside their daily experience and may have higher first costs than older, less efficient technologies. As more people adopt technologies like heat pumps, solar panels, and electric cars, not only are costs likely to go down, but our base of knowledge about life-cycle cost savings will grow stronger, helping more Minnesotans embrace the future of our living spaces.

There is still much to do in the realm of climate action, and we hope incentives like this can expand to the commercial building sector in the future. We will continue our work to improve building envelopes and create other efficiencies in design in both the residential and commercial sectors and look forward to more progress as programs like this impact the marketplace.

Please support SF 42.

Sincerely,



Mary-Margaret Zindren, CAE
Executive Vice President, AIA Minnesota

cc: Senator Matt Klein

