



CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD
Empowering Minnesota Consumers

332 Minnesota Street, Suite W1360
Saint Paul, MN 55101
www.cubminnesota.org
info@cubminnesota.org, 651-300-4701

March 19, 2024

Senator Nicole Mitchell
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3229
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for SF 4760 – Thermal energy network pilots

Dear Senator Mitchell,

Thank you for carrying SF 4760 to advance thermal energy networks in the state of Minnesota.

The Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota (CUB) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit advocate for Minnesota's residential utility consumers. As part of our efforts, CUB is focused on decarbonizing Minnesota's heating sector in a way that is affordable, fair, and accessible for all Minnesotans.

Thermal energy networks are a very promising technology to provide heating and cooling to homes and businesses. Powered by clean heating sources like geothermal facilities or waste heat recovered from wastewater systems, thermal energy networks have the potential to efficiently decarbonize heating needs. Thermal energy networks also promise good job opportunities for construction trades workers, and a centralized asset that might be constructed, owned, and operated by an experienced utility company. Minnesota already has substantial experience with thermal energy networks, including the long-standing district systems in downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis. CUB is very interested in seeing thermal energy networks further piloted, studied, and hopefully expanded at a larger scale in Minnesota.

We appreciate the willingness of advocates to consider our questions and suggestions on this bill, and we are committed to working with them and with you as the legislation advances.

Thank you very much for your work on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Annie Levenson-Falk
Executive Director

cc: Chair Frentz; Ranking Minority Member Mathews; and Members, Energy, Utilities,
Environment, and Climate Committee
Justin Emmerich, Committee Administrator
Joe Birkholz, Office of Governor Tim Walz