



MINNESOTA PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION

Affiliate of the United Association
Composed of Journeyman and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry
Of the United States and Canada
State Federation of Labor – A.F.L.-C.I.O.

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March 25, 2024

Sen. Nick Frentz, Chair
Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy,
Utilities, Environment, and Climate:

On behalf of the Minnesota Pipe Trades Association, I write in support of
SF 4686.

Minnesota Pipe Trades Association is an umbrella organization representing nearly 10,000 men and women working in piping related industries throughout Minnesota. Our members perform mechanical construction and repair work, including plumbing, pipefitting, and fire protection. The energy sector is critical for our members who build, maintain, and repair thermal power-plants – including coal, gas and nuclear, along with petroleum and renewable fuel refineries and pipelines.

The energy transition is going to be challenging for those who have spent their careers working in the traditional energy sector. A “just transition” means ensuring that we are accounting for their unique skill sets and affording them opportunities to contribute to the low-carbon energy sector.

The installation of geothermal heating and cooling systems and thermal energy networks represents an important opportunity to put our members to work decarbonizing buildings. While geothermal systems can save building owners money over time, they can have higher upfront costs than air source heat pumps and traditional furnaces. By providing consumer rebates to building owners through SF 4686, we can help them get over the initial hurdle of installing a system.

We thank Senator McEwen for bringing forward this important bill and would encourage members to support the bill.

Sincerely,


David Ybarra, President

Duluth-Detroit Lakes
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #11

Minneapolis-St. Cloud
Plumbers
Local #15

Minneapolis-St. Cloud
Pipefitters
Local #539

Minneapolis-St. Paul
Sprinkler Fitters
Local #417

Minneapolis
Gas Workers
Local #340

Moorhead
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #300

Rochester
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #6

St. Paul – Mankato
Plumbers
Local #34

St. Paul – Mankato
Pipefitters
Local #455

Virginia
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #589

Road Sprinkler Fitters
Local #669
District 28