



April 16, 2024

Senator Nick Frentz  
Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate  
Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN

RE: Residential Energy Codes, S.F. 4202

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

Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) supports legislation advancing the State residential building energy code. As proposed, S.F. 4202 would ensure that:

- The state adopts, at a minimum, the efficiency requirements of the most recent International Energy Conservation Code starting in 2026.
- That the energy code advances energy efficiency between 2026 and 2038 so that the energy code achieves a 70 percent reduction in net energy use compared to the 2006 model code.

The goal provided by the legislation is needed to meet our climate goals and is achievable by Minnesota builders. A similar target has been adopted by Washington state, and builders in Minnesota have successfully achieved this target and greater in housing built recently in the state. A long ramp-up time to achieve the final goal will ensure that we meet the target at the least cost.

CEE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization based in Minneapolis, MN with expertise in energy efficiency that traces back over 40 years. CEE's mission is to discover and deploy the most effective energy solutions that strengthen the economy and improve the environment. A key component to accomplishing that is supporting energy efficiency in new buildings, which we achieve through directly working with builders to support energy-efficient construction; in-the-field energy efficiency research on new construction; and by working with utility programs and city code officials to maximize the energy code implementation.

Furthermore, this legislation is valuable for Minnesota to compete for federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law dollars to improve energy code and its implementation throughout the state. CEE is leading a proposal team along with Department of Commerce and Department of Labor and Industry and others for the second round of the federal Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation program.

CEE supports energy efficient new construction because it is one of the most impactful and cost-effective ways the State can enhance the comfort and health of people, reduce costs for building owners, and make progress toward our clean energy goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Duffrin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Duffrin, President

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