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March 21, 2024

Chair Hawj and Members of the Climate, Environment, and Legacy Committee,

We are writing to express our support for two provisions of Senate File 3631, as amended by scs3631a-2.

First, **we support the Resilient Community Assistance Program** proposed in Senate File 4116. (*Lines 117.15-119.14*).

Minnesota's climate is already changing. Fortunately, many **Minnesota communities are leading the way, preparing and adapting their communities, making them safer, healthier, and ready for what's next.** However, more communities will need to move farther faster in order to prepare for the precipitation, floods, extremes of heat and cold, droughts, wildfires, and high wind events that are increasing in frequency and intensity. This program will help more Minnesota communities protect more Minnesotans.

Second, **we support adding to Minnesota's declared state environmental policy the encouragement of the recovery and use of waste heat from wastewater treatment operations.** Likewise, we support adding to the duties of the Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency the encouragement of this policy. (*Lines 114.18-114.20; 120.8-120.31*)

This language, from Senate File 3728, is a recognition of the important role innovative thermal energy technology ought to play in Minnesota's clean energy future. **Wastewater heat recovery is one important option for communities that are transitioning to carbon-free heating and cooling systems.** We appreciate that the author, the chair, and the committee are better positioning us for this future.

Thank you for your leadership and the opportunity to share our perspective,

*Aurora Vautrin*

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