



SIERRA CLUB

NORTH STAR CHAPTER

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4/4/24

Kara Josephson
Committee Administrator
Senate Environment, Climate & Legacy Committee
95 University Ave W, St Paul, MN 55103

Dear Chair Her and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Sierra Club, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Minnesota Community Fund bill SF4969 aimed at electrifying outdoor equipment. This initiative holds immense promise in advancing Minnesota's transition to clean energy while simultaneously addressing air pollution disparities across the state.

As Minnesotans increasingly recognize the imperative to reduce emissions, save on costs, and enhance air quality, it is paramount to ensure equitable access to the benefits of electrification. We commend the foresight behind the establishment of a statewide grant program that prioritizes inclusivity and community input, particularly from those disproportionately impacted by air pollution.

The advantages of electric outdoor equipment are indisputable and align closely with Sierra Club's mission of addressing climate change and protecting our environment and communities:

Cost-Effectiveness: Studies consistently demonstrate the economic benefits of powering outdoor equipment with electricity over traditional gas-powered alternatives. Not only does electricity offer a more affordable energy source, but it also results in substantial long-term savings for users.

Reliability and Maintenance: Electric motors are renowned for their durability and require significantly less maintenance compared to their gas-powered counterparts. By reducing upkeep expenses and downtime, electric equipment proves itself to be a reliable and practical investment for communities across Minnesota.

Economic Viability: While the initial upfront cost of electric equipment may present a barrier to some, it is essential to recognize the substantial return on investment that

ensues. With the potential to recoup costs in as little as three years, electrification emerges as a financially prudent choice for individuals and communities alike.

For these reasons, we encourage your support of SF4969. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
Margaret Levin
State Director
Sierra Club North Star Chapter