

April 18, 2024

Minnesota Senate
Committee on Health and Human Services
Minnesota Senate Building, 1150
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Senate File 4699 - Health and Human Services Budget and Policy Omnibus Bill

Dear Chair Wiklund, Vice Chair Mann, Senator Utke, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today to thank you for including SF4074, Senator McEwen's bill for groundwater thermal exchange permits in the Senate Health and Human Services Budget and Policy Omnibus bill, SF4699. This provision will help the development of Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage (ATES) technology and will continue to supply cost-effective low-carbon heating and cooling in buildings.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We are focused on educating Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy. Our business membership is comprised of over 60 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state. CEEM stands committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive.

Utilizing ATES technology will require a smaller footprint compared to traditional geothermal energy systems by using a series of wells and piping that move heat between buildings and the local aquifer. This allows for buildings to be heated and cooled without on-site natural gas consumption. Supporting low-carbon alternatives like ATES allows Minnesota to make important progress towards achieving its 100% Clean Energy by 2040 law.

We thank Chair Wiklund and the Senate Health and Human Services committee for their thoughtful work this session and for including the provision for groundwater thermal exchange permits. This provision is important to support Minnesota's transition to a clean energy economy. We look forward to continuing to work with the legislature to move toward a clean energy future.

Sincerely,



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