

March 5, 2025

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Senate Energy Committee,

The undersigned represent a broad coalition of organizations committed to ensuring safe, healthy, and energy-efficient learning environments for Minnesota's students. We urge you to support and pass **SF1787 (Xiong): Air Ventilation Improvement and Geothermal in Schools Funding Bill**.

A national survey by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that **41% of school districts need to update or replace HVAC systems in at least half of their schools**—impacting approximately **36,000 schools nationwide** ([GAO Report](#)). Minnesota is no exception. Many schools across the state struggle with outdated ventilation and heating systems, leading to poor indoor air quality and rising energy costs.

Investing in modern air ventilation and geothermal heating and cooling systems will:

- ✓ Improve indoor air quality (IAQ) and create healthier learning environments.
- ✓ Reduce energy costs for school districts over time.
- ✓ Support sustainability efforts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✓ Alleviate financial pressure on local taxpayers.

However, the upfront cost of these critical upgrades remains a significant barrier for many school districts. This is where the Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority (MnCIFA) can play a vital role. MnCIFA has the ability to coordinate and leverage private and public financing, grants, tax incentives, and other credit instruments to help schools **access low- or no-interest loans** for these essential improvements.

By passing SF1787, you will help ensure that all Minnesota students have access to safe, healthy, and energy-efficient schools—without placing an undue burden on local taxpayers. We urge you to support this bill and invest in the future of our students and communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and look forward to your leadership on this important issue.

DARCY



100%



Flow
Environmental Systems Inc

cee
Center for Energy and Environment

