

March 24, 2025

Minnesota Senate
Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate
1150 MSB
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 2162 - Geothermal Planning Grants Program

Dear Chair Frentz and committee members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of Senate File 2454, a bill that would provide additional funding to the existing geothermal planning grants program. Since its establishment in 2024, this grant program has become a valuable tool for local governments looking for various ways to achieve their carbon-free goals.

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 70 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.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce's geothermal energy system planning grant provides up to \$150,000 to eligible applicants seeking to assess the feasibility of a geothermal energy system. This technology offers the potential for substantial energy cost savings while reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Additional funding for this grant program will empower local governments and now tribal nations to continue conducting feasibility studies, ensuring geothermal projects integrate seamlessly with existing infrastructure. As Minnesota progresses toward its goal of 80 percent economy-wide decarbonization by 2050, encouraging the widespread adoption of geothermal technologies is a strategy our organization strongly supports.

We thank Senator McEwen for authoring SF2454 and Chair Frentz for hearing it in committee today. If you have any questions, please let us know. Thank you.

Sincerely,



George Damian
Director of Government Affairs
gdamian@cleanenergyeconomymn.org



Chandra Her
Senior Policy Associate
cher@cleanenergyeconomymn.org