

March 24, 2025

Senator Nick A. Frentz
Chair of the Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate

Re: SF 2454— McEwen: Geothermal planning grants appropriation.

Dear Chair Frentz and Committee Members,

The City of Minneapolis appreciates the opportunity to comment in support of SF 2454.

As we navigate the pressing challenges of climate change and the urgent need for sustainable energy solutions, geothermal energy presents a promising and underutilized resource. SF 2454 will provide an appropriation of funds from the renewable development account to the Minnesota Department of Commerce for geothermal planning grants. The financial support will assist municipalities in examining the technical and economic feasibility of installing geothermal energy systems, a vital activity now and in the next decade to reduce our fossil gas emissions.

This investment will empower municipalities to explore and develop geothermal projects, which can significantly reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and lower greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the benefits of geothermal energy extend beyond environmental impact; they also contribute to energy stability and resilience. By supporting this legislation, we are taking a crucial step toward diversifying our energy portfolio and investing in a sustainable future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patrick Hanlon
Deputy Commissioner: Sustainability, Healthy Homes and Environment
City of Minneapolis Health Department