



Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate,

On behalf of our 15,000 members we write to express our support for SF2900, a proposal to create a rebate program for geothermal projects.

As the state looks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the buildings sector, geothermal heat pump systems are a promising option and one that will create good job opportunities for our members. As we all know, Minnesota has very cold winters. The benefit of geothermal heat pumps is that because they are pulling heat from underground—rather than the air—they can operate efficiently at much lower temperatures. These systems can also be deployed at scale in a connected system, with the potential to reduce emissions across multiple buildings or even entire neighborhoods.

While there are many benefits to geothermal heat pumps, the upfront costs can be expensive. That is why we appreciate and support SF2900 which will help reduce the upfront costs for building owners. As a union that represents well drillers, incentivizing geothermal will help expand the industry and create jobs for our members.

Thank you Senator McEwen for bringing forward this piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

John Pollard, Political Director, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49