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May 7, 2025

Chair Marty and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for three provisions in the Senate File 2393, the Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate policy and appropriations bill.

- First, we strongly support the \$2 million appropriation for the **Geothermal Planning Grant Program** contained in Article 2, Section 6, lines 8.14 - 17 in the SCS2393A31. This is a popular program that is helping local governments evaluate the feasibility of developing clean, efficient, and affordable heating and cooling systems in their community.
- Second, we strongly support expanding the Geothermal Planning Grant Program's eligibility to include **Tribal governments**, included in Article 3, Section 14 on lines 19.1 and 19.10 - 11. This expansion will help ensure the benefits of geothermal systems are available for all Minnesotans statewide.
- Third, we strongly support the \$2.2 million appropriation for the **Como Zoo Geothermal System** in Article 2, Section 2, lines 6.1 - 6.14. This investment in a popular, public facility is exactly the kind of investment the state ought to make to help local governments lead by example.

These three provisions will keep Minnesota positioned as a national leader on the development and deployment of innovative geothermal systems.

Thank you for all your work on this bill this year.

Signed,

Aurora Vautrin

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