

April 2, 2025

Minnesota Senate
Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Room 1100
Saint Paul, MN 55103

RE: Senate File 2426 - MAD DADS Youth Workforce Development Program

Dear Chair Champion and committee members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of Senate File 2426, a bill that will provide a grant for MAD DADS of Minneapolis, an organization aiming to uplift the community through youth programming, safety initiatives, and employment opportunities. This grant would fund an implementation of MAD DAD's "earn-to-learn" initiative, providing employment and mentorship opportunities for youth from underserved communities.

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.

MAD DADS plays an active role in fostering a more positive community through its various successful programs, including Violence Interrupters, the Youth Empowerment Club, and the Workforce Program. All of these programs uplift employment opportunities and encourage a diverse workforce throughout Minneapolis. To further the workforce of Minnesota, it's essential that underserved communities, including BIPOC and youth, can obtain employment opportunities.

The "earn-to-learn" initiative by MAD DADS provides hands-on training for high-demand industries, specifically, this grant will enable career development for HVAC, energy efficiency, and solar installation. This program supports the expansion of the clean energy sector across the state. According to the 2023 Clean Jobs Midwest report, Minnesota has over 62,000 clean energy jobs, including 45,511 in energy efficiency and 5,322 in solar,¹ with demand for these jobs expected to grow significantly in the coming years.

CEEM encourages and supports the grant for MAD DADS, as it helps underserved youth, creates employment around the energy industry, and will help diversify Minnesota's workforce. We thank Chair Champion for authoring this bill. We appreciate the opportunity to share our support for SF2426.

Sincerely,



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¹ 2024 Clean Jobs Midwest Report: <https://www.cleanenergyeconomymn.org/clean-jobs-midwest-2024>