



April 27, 2026

Senator John Marty
Chair of Senate Finance Committee
3235 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN, 55155

RE: Support for Energy Assistance Expansion Bill: [SF 486](#) (Dibble) included in [S.F. 4504](#) (Frentz)
Omnibus Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate policy and supplemental appropriations bill

Dear Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the [Minnesota Community Action Partnership](#) and 21 Community Action Agencies that deliver critical Energy Assistance to families, veterans, and seniors statewide, we express strong support for Senator Dibble's Senate File 486 Energy Assistance Expansion bill funding of \$15M.

As Community Action Agencies we are intimately connected to our neighbors seeking support for their spiking heating costs in order to prevent the painful choice of paying for heat instead of medicine, food, or transportation. We hear the stories of gratitude from our elders who are able to remain in their homes while maintaining their health and safety, and families with young children who can sleep in warm houses before heading to school.

Timing is of essence—as we are seeing particularly concerning growth in utility arrears this winter, and we know there are neighbors who have never needed assistance who are applying for the first time out of necessity. An infusion of state funding would significantly ease the personal and community toll we are seeking to alleviate. Additionally, increased Energy Assistance funding is accompanied by Weatherization Assistance, utility conservation and affordability programs—which lead to greater self-sufficiency and prevents the need for additional future help.

We strongly support the \$15M included in this bill and urge you to move it forward to the Senate Floor.

Thank you for the impactful work you do to support economic opportunity for ALL Minnesotans. We look forward to ways that we can partner with you in our common goal to empower our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Lori Schultz

Lori Schultz, Executive Director
Minnesota Community Action Partnership

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