

April 22, 2020

Rep. Jean Wagenius
449 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act (HF4502)

Dear Chair Wagenius and Members of the House Energy and Climate Finance and Policy Committee,

Our organizations represent part of the nearly 46,000 Minnesotans working in energy efficiency and support the Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act. We understand firsthand how state energy policies can create significant economic opportunity through local employment and by lowering energy bills for residents and businesses throughout Minnesota.

Energy efficiency has been a reliable source of jobs creating tax revenue for the state, saving Minnesotans over \$6 billion while substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The ECO Act will broaden the scope and accessibility of Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) offerings by preserving Minnesota's nation-leading utility energy efficiency programs while integrating load management and efficient fuel-switching programs. These additional technologies are designed to optimize our energy system by utilizing readily available low-cost, low-carbon energy.

We support the ECO Act as a means to strengthen energy resiliency, boost economic development, and improve productivity in Minnesota. By unleashing technology innovation and creating new utility programs to install these technologies, ECO would help save customers energy and money while supporting local economies. Projects supported by ECO create local jobs in electrical, heating/cooling, ventilation, refrigeration, and insulation installation. These types of projects are typically designed and carried out by local businesses and installed by state licensed contractors, using locally sourced products. Additionally, many innovative companies that build these technologies have manufacturing facilities and are headquartered in Minnesota. ECO will expand workforce opportunities all over the state by adding the next generation of technologies to the highly successful energy efficiency programs offered through CIP. In addition to providing residents and businesses more opportunities to save money on their energy bills and creating economic opportunities when needed most. The ECO Act will send a clear market signal, which will save jobs and allow residents and businesses to save money through these cost-effective programs.

In order to take advantage of Minnesota's most cost-effective and cleanest energy resource, **we strongly support passing the Energy Conservation and Optimization Act**. The ECO Act will unlock innovation, generate additional cost savings for utility customers, create new jobs and investment opportunities, and reduce CO₂ emissions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Colin Beere
SMART SMW Local 10

Matthew Haley
Energy Insight

Gary Thaden
Minnesota Contractors of
National Electrical Contractors
Association

Andy Snope
IBEW, Local 292

Jeff Ihnen
Michaels Energy

