



April 15, 2024

Representative Fue Lee
Capital Investment Committee
485 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Committee Chair Lee and members of the Capital Investment Committee:

On behalf of Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), I would like to express our strong support for HF 5312, a bill that clarifies agency responsibilities for sustainable building guidelines, provides necessary compliance mechanisms, and allocates funding to ensure future program success. This legislation will help the state improve upon important policy that, after 15 years of supporting the state to build more efficient buildings, requires updates and additional funding.

CEE is a Minnesota-based 501(c)(3) clean energy nonprofit with special expertise in energy efficiency and other clean energy resources. CEE employs over 200 people in a variety of areas, including technology research, energy efficiency program development and implementation, community engagement, policy advocacy, and project financing. Working across homes, businesses, and communities, CEE discovers and deploys the most effective energy solutions to strengthen our economy and improve our environment.

Since 2001, Minnesota's Sustainable Building Guidelines have provided key metrics and guidance to those developing state-funded buildings. The Guidelines, known as B3 for "Buildings, Benchmarks and Beyond," incorporate the Sustainable Buildings 2030 (SB 2030) energy standard, a performance-based guideline that has spurred remarkable energy and financial savings in state bonded buildings since 2009. Nearly 500 projects have used the B3 guidelines, and the SB 2030 standard has now produced nearly one-million MMBtu in annual energy savings. Together the B3 guidelines and SB 2030 standard are important pillars in Minnesota's nation-leading energy efficiency policies. They demonstrate that government is willing to walk-the-talk and lead the way toward a far more environmentally sustainable future.

HF 5312 would enact several important measures that came from the findings and recommendations the Legislature requested last year. It clarifies the important roles that the Department of Administration and the Center for Sustainable Building Research (CSBR) have in developing, administering, and overseeing compliance of future guidelines. It also provides adequate funding while establishing better accountability. Overall, it reflects what is necessary for a maturing, growing program which will only become more important as we aim to make buildings as efficient and sustainable as possible.

We urge your support for Representative Reyer's HF 5312. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Duffrin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Duffrin, President

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