

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Hodan Hassan
597 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Omar Fateh
Capitol Office
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3219
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Hodan Hassan and Senator Omar Fateh,

Hennepin County is pleased to support the Sabathani Community Center's (SCC) Community Energy Project. This phase of the project will install a new district energy geothermal heat pump system for the main Sabathani building with future expansion to a new 72-unit multi-family housing being built on the Sabathani campus in 2024.

Sabathani's goal is to develop a Community Resilience Hub that supports their 87% BIPOC South Minneapolis community by securing energy for critical services such as their food shelf; providing a gathering place for times of extended power outages; dramatically reducing carbon emissions in a community that carries a heavy pollution burden; supporting workforce development for family-sustaining careers; building wealth and energy access in a community of color; and providing a demonstration site for clean-renewable energy.

Hennepin County has set aggressive carbon reduction goals that align with Sabathani's project and our team will support these efforts through grant opportunities, rebate programs, and staff guidance as appropriate and applicable. We look forward to working alongside Sabathani Community Center and other key project partners to advance community-level energy resilience planning through deep community partnership.

The time to act is now. We must invest in and build power in the South Minneapolis neighborhoods that have been overburdened by high energy costs, health impacts, and racial unrest. I am happy to answer any questions you may have about Hennepin County's involvement in this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diana Chaman Salas
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Climate & Resiliency Department
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