



Clean Energy Economy MN

CleanEnergyEconomyMN.org



WERNER ELECTRIC



January 26, 2021

Minnesota House of Representatives
Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee
State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for HF164 - Energy Conservation and Optimization (“ECO”) Act

Dear Chair Long and Committee Members,

As businesses working in Minnesota’s energy efficiency/energy waste reduction sector, we write today about the bipartisan Energy Conservation and Optimization Act of 2021 (commonly referred to as “ECO”). This legislation will provide new energy efficiency options to Minnesota’s businesses and residential customers, while driving local job growth through technological innovation and the development of new customer and market opportunities. We support ECO and respectfully ask for your support of the bill.

Energy efficiency is our cheapest and cleanest energy resource. Energy waste reduction is common sense - it costs less to save one kilowatt hour of electricity (about 2 cents) than to buy a kilowatt hour (about 8 cents).¹ Providing additional energy efficiency options is a smart economic decision and one that benefits all Minnesotans. Energy efficiency through the Conservation Improvement Program (“CIP”) reduces energy waste and ultimately saves customers money on their bills. CIP has already provided over \$6 billion in net benefits to the state.

ECO builds upon the success of CIP providing important additional opportunities to achieve energy savings through load management and efficient fuel switching. These changes empower Minnesota’s businesses and customers to choose the best, most cost-effective energy technologies to meet their needs.

¹ Minnesota Department of Commerce (2018) - Minnesota Energy Efficiency Potential Study: 2020–2029

Minnesota's clean energy businesses thrive on innovation and forward-thinking policy, and that is what we humbly ask for your help with this session. Prior to the pandemic, the energy efficiency sector employed more than 46,000 Minnesotans working across the state. However, COVID-19 has significantly impacted the sector with nearly [7,000 of these jobs lost](#).² ECO will serve as a critical engine to support the recovery and growth of these jobs during this challenging economic time.

We ask that you support ECO and usher in opportunities to leverage our cheapest and cleanest energy resource. We are happy to discuss this issue in greater depth and explain how it would benefit the clean energy industry in Minnesota. Thank you for your work and for supporting our state's economy in this unprecedented moment.

Sincerely,

Gregg Mast
Executive Director
Benjamin Stafford
Director, Government Affairs
Clean Energy Economy MN

Deepinder Singh
CEO
75F

Deana Dennis
Senior Manager, State Policy
CERES

Ken Smith
President and CEO
Ever-Green Energy

Dennis Kim
Chairman
Andy Kim
President
EVS

Rick Carter
CEO
LHB

John Neville
Regional Director - Business Development
Midwest Region
McKinstry

Julian White
Partner
Nokomis Energy

Lee Valencour
President, Conservation Services
Plains Energy Services

Amy Dorsett
Regional Comprehensive Solutions Sales Leader
Trane Commercial

Martin Morud
Owner/President
TruNorth Solar

Ryan Butterfield
Director of Energy Services & Solutions
Werner Electric

Jim Douglas
Vice President
Willdan

Tim Gulden
Owner
Winona Renewable Energy

² Source: BW Research Memorandum, Issued December 2020