



SIERRA CLUB
NORTH STAR CHAPTER

Sierra Club North Star Chapter
2300 Myrtle Avenue, Suite 260
Saint Paul, MN 55114

March 25, 2021

Dear Chair Long, Vice Chair Acomb, and members of the House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Division,

We are writing to express the Sierra Club's strong support for the Buy Clean and Buy Fair Minnesota Act.

Right now, action at the state level is crucial to reduce carbon emissions, and avoid the worst effects of climate change. Along the way, we can build a strong, clean energy economy and ensure good, family supporting jobs.

Buildings are one of the major sources of carbon pollution, and the emissions that are embodied throughout the life cycle of our building materials has recently emerged as an important concern – with their manufacture accounting for 11 percent of total carbon emissions globally.

This legislation takes an important step towards addressing this problem. The proposed pilot program will explore a Minnesota-specific approach to reducing climate emissions in the materials that are used to update our buildings and infrastructure. And it will help to support manufacturers who are using cleaner and greener processes and technologies.

The addition of Buy Fair policies create the opportunity to reward the manufacturers that have the best working conditions, to ensure that workers are healthy and safe with family-supporting wages and benefits.

We are pleased to join labor, business and other environmental organizations in supporting a pilot program of this exciting approach and hope that it will lead to using our state's considerable purchasing power to "buy clean" – using taxpayer dollars to reduce climate change and support a strong Minnesota workforce.

Sincerely,

Margaret Levin
State Director
Sierra Club North Star Chapter