



401 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

February 6, 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,

Xcel Energy is pleased to support Sabathani Community Center's 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, reducing 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.

Xcel Energy is an electric and gas utility operating in eight states, providing a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.7 million electric customers and 2.1 million natural gas customers. Xcel Energy has been one of the top providers of wind energy in the nation for over 15 years. In 2018, we became the first major U.S. energy provider to commit to delivering 100% carbon-free electricity by midcentury. More recently, the company expanded that vision to delivering net-zero greenhouse gas electricity, heating, and transportation. See [Clean Energy Transition Progress | Our Commitment | Xcel Energy](#). As we decarbonize these major sectors of the economy, we seek to support an equitable clean energy transition that prioritizes investment in BIPOC communities. We are privileged to partner with organizations such as Sabathani in pursuing that vision.

Xcel Energy has been working closely with Sabathani since early 2021. We are supporting Sabathani's vision to become a Community Resilience Hub by investing over \$2.5 million in a Resilient Minneapolis Project¹ solar/battery microgrid that will allow Sabathani to act as an emergency refuge location and continue delivering critical services in the event of a power outage. We believe this is a crucial resiliency service for populations such as those Sabathani serves, who tend to be disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of climate change. However, we also recognize that our microgrid efforts are just one piece of Sabathani's broader clean energy, energy affordability, and environmental justice vision.

¹ Sabathani is one of three Resilient Minneapolis Project locations, with a total investment of approximately \$9 million.

Xcel Energy has worked to support that vision through rebates for LED lighting retrofits and smart thermostats, sharing the costs for a geothermal engineering study, planning to provide Solar*Rewards incentives for rooftop solar, and seeking Sabathani's advice on energy equity as part of our standing Equity Stakeholder Advisory Group.

We also seek to support the district energy geothermal heat pump system, working in collaboration with Sabathani's gas utility CenterPoint Energy, and providing support where feasible through our own programs for energy efficiency and electrification. Sabathani's request for public funding via a legislative appropriation will leverage significant private sector funding as well, including but not limited to these utility programs.

Xcel Energy has the staff resources and availability to support the efforts associated with the proposed activities. 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. I am happy to answer any questions you may have about Xcel Energy's involvement in this project; please do not hesitate to contact me at (651) 233-3385 or Nicholas.f.martin@xcelenergy.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

NICHOLAS MARTIN
DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC OUTREACH & ADVOCACY