



Dear Members of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of AIA Minnesota and its 2,300 member architects and design professionals, I'm writing to express support for Representative Lee's HF 2386 to create the Rebuild Right grant program.

This bill is an excellent representation of a rebuilding strategy that acknowledges the intersectionality of racial, social, and climate issues, and provides both funding and technical support to help Minnesota communities make progress. By providing tools to make the neighborhoods damaged by the 2020 civil unrest more resilient, more energy-efficient, and healthier, we are helping them build back better, not just get back to business as usual. This is a critical point because all too often business as usual left Black, Indigenous and people of color in these neighborhoods behind.

To that end, including voices from the impacted communities on the advisory panel, as proposed in the bill, is important. Having business owners and residents from these neighborhoods be at the table will make the approach to grantmaking pragmatic and impactful, and give a strong sense of the most urgent needs in the community. The preference for grants in Opportunity Zones, areas of concentrated poverty, and to women- and minority-owned businesses will help make the connection between addressing inequities and preparing for a more energy-efficient future.

Minnesota architects support the application of SB 2030 standards to this program because we have seen how it provides measurable, significant data and improves outcomes on public projects at many scales. The SB 2030 system is adaptable for many project types, and projects executed under the system often exceed energy reduction targets, making buildings more energy efficient and more cost-effective to operate - the state of Minnesota is currently saving \$22 million per year. Business owners and residents impacted by the unrest should be able to benefit from these tools to see energy efficiency and health improvements in their renovated spaces.

We are also pleased to see the connection made between energy efficiency, mechanical systems, and the building envelope. To ensure that the bill's goals are met in practice, we would encourage you to consider allowing the Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) energy performance standards to be applied, in addition to the International Passive House standard already included in the bill on line 3.26. This change would align with the standards included in the "Minneapolis Homes" grant program, eliminating any confusion regarding project standards.

The cause of the unrest and the damage done to these culturally important neighborhoods are tragic. We must take the opportunity now to make real change in our development practices to create a better future for the impacted residents. AIA Minnesota's architects

are already working with their neighbors in these communities to design the next generation of these neighborhoods. With support from programs like Rebuild Right, we can ensure it is a generation that is healthier, more resilient, more equitable, and more sustainable. We urge you to support this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Turner". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Turner".

Elizabeth Turner, AIA
Co-Chair, AIA Minnesota Government Affairs Committee
Founder, Precipitate