

May 12, 2022

Senators and Representatives of the Jobs, Energy, and Commerce Omnibus Conference Committee,

The Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) appreciates the collective work leading into the Jobs, Energy, and Commerce omnibus conference committee. There are many worthy provisions contained in the bills, below we highlight a few sections that could provide Minnesotans with improved infrastructure, reduced energy bills, assist communities that host power plants, and position Minnesota well to match and compete for highly coveted IIJA federal funding in the energy sector.

Support — Securing IIJA matching and competitive funds

State matching and competitive funds will ensure Minnesota's energy infrastructures is modern and secure *across the state*. Additionally, maximizing the amount of IIJA funds to Minnesota will create opportunities for continued leadership on local jobs, energy technology, research, and development. **This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Minnesotans.**

Support — Funding for pre-weatherization and workforce training

Nearly 88% of qualified Minnesotans cannot receive federal weatherization, half are disqualified due to home deficiencies (minor codes violations, mold, asbestos, or roof repairs). Pre-weatherization funds would be used to address these issues, allowing more Minnesota residents to receive insulation and furnace repairs. Additionally, funding is needed to train weatherization providers to ensure Minnesotans across the state can receive these services that benefit the whole electricity grid by making more homes more efficient and resilient.

Support — New construction commercial codes (House Energy provision 210.7 – 210.17)

Passing this legislation would enable Minnesota cities to compete for \$225M in federal energy code funding available through IIJA. They cannot qualify under current statutes. This legislation gives cities an option to adopt ASHRAE 90.1 once the Department of Energy (DOE) completes its triennial review of ASHRAE 90.1. Cities have the capabilities to adopt ASHRAE in 3 months, whereas DLI usually needs 1-2 years. This legislation allows cities (who choose so) to adopt ASHRAE and then conform to the state energy code once DLI finishes their proceedings.

Support — Load control receivers (Senate Labor and Industry policy, S4091-4, 65.14 - 65.27, House Labor policy UES4091-1, 141.9 – 141.12)

Load control receivers (LCRs) enable utilities to optimize their energy system, which in turn, helps their customers save money. The Energy Conservation and Optimization Act (ECO) of 2021 is designed to reduce utility customers' energy costs by providing choices in when and how energy is used, which is achieved by **cost-effective** energy efficiency and load optimization. It's critically important for load optimization through LCRs to be accessible to Minnesotans through their local electric utility.

Support — Host community funding (Senate Energy provision, 32.20-32.25)

It is important to support our power plant host communities and workers during the clean energy transition. This provision provides needed funding assistance for host communities to create actionable plans, so they can position themselves to thrive beyond plant closures. We would request that the senate position be considered, which includes the city of Red Wing.

Sincerely,
Jamie Fitzke
CEE, Director of Legislative Affairs