

## Clean Energy Jobs Stimulus Package - Organizational Sign-On Letter

As the COVID-19 pandemic disrupts the daily lives of Minnesotans, including our ability to work, pay rent and send our kids to school, we need to ensure working people can make ends meet. The choices our government makes now to help us weather the outbreak of this virus can also set a better course for the future of our communities. Under-resourced communities, including communities of color, low-income communities, and rural communities are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 directly as well as by the resulting economic downturn. Now is the time for us to unite across our differences and respond to the needs of those on the frontlines of the pandemic and climate change. Now is the time to do the work necessary to prevent future disasters like the climate crisis.

This virus has shown us how our state can come together when faced with an urgent challenge. To come out of this crisis stronger, we need to pass legislation that not only promotes public health, job growth, and economic recovery but helps make our society and economy more resilient in the face of pandemic, recession, and the effects of climate change in the years ahead. We can do this by creating millions of new family-sustaining, career-track clean energy jobs and delivering strategic investments — like energy efficiency housing retrofits, rooftop solar installation, electric bus deployment, rural broadband development, and other forms of economic diversification. The first step forward is passing a Minnesota Clean Energy Jobs Stimulus Package, and we can do that right now. We support the following legislation as part of a Minnesota Clean Energy Jobs Stimulus Package:

### **Evaluating and Prioritizing Bonding Measures Through a Climate and Equity Lens**

As legislators consider bonding proposals it is imperative that they consider the impact each proposal will have on the climate and jobs creation. This means prioritizing funding for transit including Bus Rapid Transit projects especially in under-resourced communities and communities of color, funding for the Forests for the Future program, energy efficiency funding for school districts, and other projects that both create jobs and address the climate crisis. Going forward, equitably addressing the climate crisis and transitioning to a renewable energy economy need to be the focus of bonding proposals.

### **Renewable Development Account**

The state's renewable development account currently has over \$80 million dollars available to be spent on clean energy projects. With our state facing a climate crisis and an economic slowdown, it is imperative to invest this money in projects that will create jobs and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We are calling on the state legislature to put this money to work by investing in the [Prairie Island Net Zero Project](#), solar arrays for public school districts, electric school buses, and the [Solar Rewards program](#). All of these projects can create jobs while helping our state transition to a clean energy future.

### **Eco Act (HF 4502, SF4409)**

The Energy Conservation and Optimization Act would modernize and expand Minnesota's existing Conservation Improvement Program by providing new tools to

reduce consumer utility bills and support and sustain jobs throughout Minnesota. Energy efficiency is a win-win in times of economic peril - it generates and sustains good jobs completing energy projects while lowering overhead costs for both residents and businesses. The ECO Act will save consumers money and increase utility investments in under-resourced communities while also cutting down on carbon emissions. This bill has existing bipartisan support and would lead to smart economic investments in our state; the cheapest energy available is the energy we never have to use.

**Signed on:**

MN350

Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy

TakeAction Minnesota

SEIU Local 26

Fresh Energy

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005

Cooperative Energy Futures

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA)

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light

MN Youth Climate Strike

Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL)

Community Power

Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia

Alliance for Sustainability

Black Visions Collective

SW MN Synod ELCA EcoFaith Network

Minnetonka Climate Initiative

West Metro Climate Action

Winona Climate Action Network

Anoka Area Climate Action

Southeast Metro Climate Action

Northwest Metro Climate Action's (NWMCA)

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE)

Delano Climate Action

Willmar Area Climate Action Group

COPAL

Northeast Metro Climate Action