



January 25, 2021

Chair Jamie Long
517 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act (HF 164 / SF 227)

Dear Chair Long and Members of the House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

Our organizations are part of the tens of thousands of Minnesotans working in energy efficiency and support the Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act. Like many workforces, our prospects and job opportunities have significantly declined due to COVID-19. We also understand firsthand how state energy policies can create significant economic opportunity through local employment and by lowering energy bills for residents and businesses throughout Minnesota.

Energy efficiency has been a reliable source of jobs and revenue for the state, in addition to saving Minnesotans over \$6 billion, as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The ECO Act will broaden the scope and accessibility of Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) offerings by preserving Minnesota’s nation-leading utility energy efficiency programs while integrating load management and efficient fuel-switching programs. These additional technologies are designed to optimize our energy system by utilizing readily available low-cost, low-carbon energy.

We support the ECO Act as a means to strengthen energy resiliency, boost economic development, and improve productivity in Minnesota. Projects supported by ECO are inherently local jobs in electrical, heating/cooling, ventilation, refrigeration, and insulation installation. These types of projects are typically designed and carried out by local businesses and installed by state licensed contractors, using locally sourced products. Additionally, many innovative companies that build these technologies have manufacturing facilities and are headquartered in Minnesota. ECO will expand workforce opportunities all over the state by adding the next generation of technologies to the highly successful energy efficiency programs offered through CIP. Additionally, ECO will provide residents and businesses with more opportunities to save money on their energy bills and to create economic opportunities when needed most. The ECO Act will send a clear market signal, which will save jobs and allow residents and businesses to save money through these cost-effective programs.

To take advantage of Minnesota’s most cost-effective and cleanest energy resource, **we strongly support passing the Energy Conservation and Optimization Act.** The ECO Act will unlock innovation, generate additional cost savings for utility customers, create new jobs and investment opportunities, and reduce CO₂ emissions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alex Chase
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