

January 27, 2021 | Submitted Electronically

Ceres BICEP Members:

Adobe Systems Inc.
Akamai Technologies
Annie's Inc.
Autodesk
Aveda
Ball Corporation
Ben & Jerry's
Biogen
Burton Snowboards
Burt's Bees
Clif Bar & Company
CommonSpirit Health
Danone North America
DSM
eBay Inc.
Eileen Fisher
Etsy
Fetzer Vineyards
Gap Inc.
General Mills, Inc.
Hackensack Meridian Health
Happy Family Brands
IKEA Retail U.S.
Impossible Foods Inc.
Indigo Ag, Inc.
JLL
Kaiser Permanente
KB Home
The Kellogg Company
L Brands
L'Oreal USA
Levi Strauss & Co.
LinkedIn Corporation
Lyft
Mars Incorporated
Mass General Brigham
McDonald's Corporation
Mondelez
Microsoft Corporation
Nature's Path Foods
Nestlé USA
New Belgium Brewing
Nike, Inc.
The North Face
Outdoor Industry Association
Owens Corning
Patagonia, Inc.
Portland Trail Blazers
REI
Salesforce.com, Inc
Schneider Electric
Seventh Generation
SFO Airport
Sierra Nevada Brewing
Squaw Valley
Starbucks Corporation
Stonyfield Farm
Symantec Corporation
The North Face
Timberland
Unilever
Vail Resorts
VF Corporation
Vulcan, Inc.
Workday
Worthen Industries

RE: Ceres BICEP Network Support for 100% Clean Energy Standard (HF 278)

Dear Senate President Jeremy Miller and Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ceres BICEP (Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy) Network – a coalition of nearly 70 major employers and manufacturers across the United States, many of whom have operations and facilities in Minnesota. As a representative of the BICEP Network, **I write to express our support for the 100% Clean Energy Standard legislation (HF 278).**

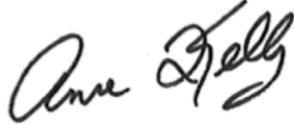
We commend Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan for their leadership to achieve 100% clean energy in Minnesota by 2040 - a full decade earlier than originally proposed - through this legislation. Bold action such as HF 278 is needed to put Minnesota back on track to meet the bipartisan emissions reductions goals set out in the Next Generation Energy Act and ensure that all Minnesotans benefit from the transition to a clean energy economy. The ambitious emissions reduction targets adequately reflect the urgency to decarbonize our economy illustrated in the [IPCC's Report on 1.5 degrees Celsius](#).

The Ceres BICEP network supports this proposal because it will help companies reduce risk, safeguard the resilience of their supply chains, and allow them to better meet the growing demands of their customers and investors. Many Minnesota businesses have made significant commitments to reducing GHG emissions because they know that climate change poses a material risk to their businesses, threatens the competitiveness and livelihoods of their supply chains, and impacts the communities in which they operate. Several companies submitted a [letter](#) in 2019 outlining their corporate GHG reduction goals and supporting the state's transition to a low-carbon economy. By clarifying the state's commitment toward clean and carbon-free electricity resources, Minnesota stands to bolster private investment and growth across its economy.

The confluence of technology innovation and increased consumer demand for renewable energy and energy efficiency has resulted in significant cost declines over the past decade. Minnesota has already made tremendous progress towards its electricity sector GHG emissions reductions targets with Xcel Energy having exceeded its goal of deriving 25% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. Now is the time to enact bold policies such as the 100% clean energy standard to ensure that timely investments are made in clean energy resources. Policy commitments made today will provide certainty and stability for businesses making investments across the state for decades to come.

Ensuring a just transition is a critical component of any comprehensive clean energy proposal. The 100% clean energy standard legislation considers both the technological and social changes involved in a clean energy transition, ensuring communities and workers are provided benefits as the economy evolves.

The businesses in our coalition recognize that climate change is a financial risk and that policy leadership to accelerate a just transition to a clean energy economy will benefit their bottom lines as well as all Minnesotans. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments, and please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.



Anne L. Kelly
Vice President Government Relations,
On behalf of Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy (BICEP)

CC: Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka
Senate Minority Leader Susan Kent
House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler
House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt
Members of the Senate Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee
Members of the House Energy and Climate Finance and Policy Division

For additional information, please contact Deana Dennis, Senior Manager for State Policy at Ceres (ddennis@ceres.org).

The [Ceres BICEP Network](http://www.ceres.org/BICEP) comprises influential companies advocating for stronger climate and clean energy policies at the state and federal level in the U.S. **Ceres BICEP Members listed in bold on the page above have direct operations in Minnesota.** For more information on the Ceres BICEP Network, visit www.ceres.org/BICEP.