

### **Green Training Program**

(HF4183, Long and SF3973, Rarick)

*Creating Pathways to Quality Jobs for BIPOC MNs in Clean Energy, Energy Efficiency*

Ensuring a sustainable future of our climate and our economy requires a **rapid shift to cleaner and more efficient uses of energy**. Energy usage must shift to wind, solar and other renewable energy sources. Existing buildings must be weatherized to improve energy efficiency. New construction must meet energy efficiency standards, use green materials, and reduce waste.

A successful transition to a clean, efficient energy economy in Minnesota requires **a strong, diverse and well-trained workforce**, and presents a valuable opportunity to tackle the inequities in our state's economy. Minnesotans of color experience a far more challenging labor market than White Minnesotans. The compounding effects of systemic racism, disparate educational opportunities, occupational segregation, and employment discrimination have made Minnesota's economy one of the inequitable in the country. The transformation needed in our energy economy - if done with equity at the center - could result in a far more equitable and sustainable future for our state.

HF4183 (Long)/ SF3973 (Rarick) would invest in **a unique partnership and program to accelerate Minnesota's progress toward our energy future** and create pathways to **high-quality, family-sustaining jobs** for BIPOC Minnesotans. HF 4183 (Long)/ SF 3973 (Rarick) would:

- Invest in a unique partnership between the union construction apprenticeship programs that work in clean energy and energy efficiency, and community organizations with broad and deep networks within Black, Latinx, and immigrant communities across Minnesota;
- Provide a pathway for BIPOC MNs into the union construction trades to gain quality training in high-demand fields while receiving supportive services to ensure success in training, employment and retention; and
- Ensure that Minnesota is developing the workforce that is needed to power the state's transition to a green economy future.

HF4183/ SF3973 is supported by Tending the Soil, a collaboration of organizations led by people of color that organize in working class communities of color across Minnesota. Tending the Soil includes: Awood Center, Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha (CTUL), Inquilinx Unidxs por Justicia (IX), the New Justice Project, SEIU Local 26 and Unidos MN.

Unidos MN and The New Justice Project are partnering with several Minnesota construction unions and their apprenticeship programs to meet their specific entry requirements and needs. We are currently formal partners with Building Strong Communities, an apprenticeship-readiness program sponsored by the MN State Building and Construction Trades Council.