

100%

100% Campaign

705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100

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www.100percentmn.org

March 24, 2021

Chair Long and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for House File 2386, Rep. Fue Lee's bill establishing a Rebuild Right Grant Program.

Minnesotans know how to come together in a crisis. During fires or floods, blizzards or windstorms, we've seen again and again that Minnesotans are willing to pitch in to help each other out. But to sustain this effort, to move from disaster relief to disaster recovery, we need state and local governments to act, to listen, and to invest. Fortunately, Rep. Lee's bill, House File 2386 does all three.

The Rebuild Right Grant Program is a great example of how we can orient toward opportunities that unite us. After any disaster, we'll need to repair and rebuild. Rather than see this as just another expense, we can treat it as what it is: a chance to start something new, to improve, to build something even better than what we had before.

This bill provides many of the building blocks for how communities could recover after any kind of large-scale, catastrophic event.

First, it aims to improve the structures that were damaged during the civil unrest of May and June 2020. It sets standards for energy performance that will make new, or newly renovated buildings, better than those standing previously.

Second, it prioritizes those hardest hit by disaster. By prioritizing low-income neighborhoods and women and minority-owned businesses, it helps improve more than just our buildings. It can help improve our long-standing economic and social disparities as well. In this way, it helps repair our communities too.

Third, it builds community buy-in. The bill would establish a Rebuild Back Better Advisory Task Force that includes a wide array of relevant stakeholders that ought to be invested in rebuilding damaged neighborhoods. This too ought to be a model for future disaster recovery efforts. Keeping the public informed and engaged is a critical part of rebuilding trust and ensuring transparency.

Finally, we want to lift up the importance of the bill's investments in pre-weatherization. Many homes need pre-weatherization investments to be prepared for energy efficiency improvements. By focusing on removing this roadblock, more low-income Minnesotans will be able to make use of these long overdue investments.

Please support House File 2386.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
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