



Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate

Representative Patty Acomb, Chair Minnesota House Climate Caucus
421 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

October 27, 2020

RE: Support for the MN House Climate Action Plan

Dear Representative Acomb,
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate (HPHC), a multidisciplinary network of over 500 health professionals across the state, acknowledges that we are facing a climate emergency that increasingly puts our health in jeopardy. HPHC is pleased to support the House Climate Caucus Climate Action Plan to take swift and comprehensive action to address the climate crisis in Minnesota in order to mitigate the worst effects of climate change on our health and build resilient and equitable communities and economies.

We appreciate that the House Climate Action Plan prioritizes human health and health equity. Climate effects, such as extreme heat, severe storms and flooding, wildfires, drought, vector-borne diseases, and air pollution are increasingly impacting the physical and mental health of Minnesotans, as the U.S. and Minnesota have thus far failed to dramatically reduce carbon emissions. While everyone's health is affected by climate change, structural racism, multigenerational trauma, and underlying socioeconomic conditions place the lives of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income communities at highest risk from climate change. These same communities are also the most heavily impacted by the triple crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, its economic aftermath, and rising social unrest due to systemic racism and police brutality. The House Plan identifies the need to assure that BIPOC communities that already experience economic, health, housing, employment, and social disadvantages benefit from the transition to a clean economy, and the need to build climate-resilient infrastructure in under-resourced communities. As the MN House crafts policies to address these inequities, **we recommend that you seek and listen to Minnesota's most impacted environmental justice communities and partner with them to adopt best practices for specific, long-term work to repair harm from existing environmental inequities and invest in best available technology, policy and development to support clean air, water, soil, and healthy housing in these communities.**

HPHC supports the more aggressive House Climate Action Plan's targets for reducing carbon emissions, with an interim target of 45% reduction by 2030. The House Plan acknowledges that we cannot achieve carbon reduction goals without taking a comprehensive approach, rather

than focusing mostly on electrification. Addressing all sectors of our economy - Energy, Transportation, Built Environment, Land and Agriculture is critical, and we support the focus on regenerative agriculture, local food systems and carbon sequestration as important strategies to begin addressing carbon emissions in the agricultural sector. While the House Plan does not address fossil fuel infrastructure, HPHC urges the House Climate Caucus to oppose the building of new or replacement oil pipelines.

Thank you for proposing the type of bold action we need to address the climate crisis and mitigate impacts on our health. We look forward to working with the MN House Climate Caucus to craft climate policy that will help Minnesota achieve our carbon emission goals to create a healthy and equitable climate and economy that will support healthy lives for all Minnesotans.

Yours in health,

Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate Executive Committee

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