

February 20, 2024

Minnesota State Senate
Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy
Senate Building, Room 1150
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Senate File 3728 - Recovery of waste heat from wastewater

Dear Chair Hawj, Senator McEwen, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of Senate File 3728, a provision to recover waste heat from wastewater. The inclusion of this language in Minnesota's Water Pollution Control Act will allow Minnesota to maximize energy efficiency in buildings by utilizing and integrating treated wastewater for a low-carbon district heating system. This change will help Minnesota achieve its goals toward climate resiliency.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We are focused on educating Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy. Our business membership is comprised of over 60 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state. CEEM stands committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive.

As detailed in the Minnesota Climate Action Framework, it is a priority for the state to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to heating and cooling buildings. Since 2005, GHG emissions from commercial buildings have risen 15% and the state's current goals are to reduce emissions by 50% by 2035. Utilizing treated and recycled wastewater – a readily available resource – to produce, distribute, and use energy will help Minnesota expand the use of low-carbon energy and improve energy efficiency in the building sector.

This common-sense change to state law will encourage Minnesota's clean energy businesses to innovate – creating economic opportunities and lowering energy costs – by simply tapping into an existing resource. This is truly a win-win for Minnesota's clean energy economy.

We thank Senator McEwen for carrying this bill and Chair Hawj for hearing it in committee. We look forward to the passage of SF3728. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



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