



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

**TESTIMONY OF BLUEGREEN MINNESOTA POLICY ORGANIZER ABBY  
HORNBERGER  
ON THE BUY CLEAN BUY FAIR MINNESOTA ACT (HF 2170/SF 2156) TO THE  
SENATE ENERGY, UTILITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE  
MARCH, 29, 2023**

Thank you Chair Frentz and committee members,

For the record my name is Abby Hornberger, the MN Policy Organizer for the BlueGreen Alliance. Our organization brings together labor unions and environmental advocates to solve today's environmental challenges in ways that create and maintain quality jobs and build a clean, prosperous, and equitable economy.

I am here today to support the inclusion of [SF 2156 \(Murphy\)](#), the Buy Clean Buy Fair Minnesota Act, in the omnibus bill. This bill would establish an Environmental Standards & Procurement Task Force to ensure that stakeholders—such as state agencies, industry, labor unions, and environmental advocates—are at the table as Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) come into play for evaluating state procurement contracts.

Work is already being done on EPDs in our state. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is already tracking and studying the creation of EPDs as they move towards being the industry norm and the Minnesota Department of Administration works closely with the University of Minnesota Center for Sustainable Building Research on building materials decarbonization.

Under the bill, the following things will be under the purview of the task force:

- Determining which materials will be subject to program requirements;
- Considering financial incentives to vendors for creating EPDs;
- Administering grants to vendors for the costs of creating EPDs;
- Determining which factors shall be evaluated in setting maximum greenhouse gas emissions standards; and
- Setting a schedule for standards implementation.

Additionally, a pilot program will be developed by 2024 to gather data from vendors and understand current supply levels and emissions.

We thank the committee for including \$1.4 million for the biennium in appropriations for the Buy Clean Buy Fair Minnesota Act in the XX COMMITTEE omnibus bill.