



Board of Commissioners

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The Honorable Diane Loeffler
553 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Loeffler and members of the House Property and Local Tax Division:

As Board Chair of the Wright County Board of Commissioners, I write in support of House File 424, authored by Representatives Sundin, Layman, Sandstede, Persell and others. Wright County is home to the Monticello Nuclear Generating Station, which is state-assessed personal property of Xcel Energy.

The bill would require the state to cover the cost of repayment of any tax court judgment against state-assessed property, and appropriate money for that purpose. Many counties have been deeply impacted by judgments because of pipeline valuation lawsuits. These judgments have serious financial impacts to local levies when combined with an already struggling ability of Minnesota counties to meet service demands.

As a County Commissioner, I know firsthand the struggles Minnesota counties face in situations relating to state-assessed properties and our obligation to protect the interests of local property taxpayers. Counties have no control in the assessment of these properties, and no part in the negotiation and defense of these judgments or reductions. This leaves us no ability to plan, foresee or avoid huge damages. I ask that members of the House Property and Local Tax Division realize the great value in this bill and support moving forward House File 424.

Sincerely,


Darek Vetsch
Wright County Board Chair
District 2 Commissioner
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Buffalo, MN 55313