



Becker ♦ Cohasset ♦ Fergus Falls ♦ Granite Falls ♦ Hoyt Lakes ♦ Monticello ♦ Oak Park Heights ♦ Red Wing

March 10, 2020

Rep. Lyndon Carlson
479 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Carlson and members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

As President of the Coalition of Utility Cities—a group of eight cities that host the state’s largest power plants—I write to voice support for the inclusion of the Community Energy Transition Grant program in HF 1842. I thank Chair Wagenius for including this program in the bill.

Our communities face a massive transition in the coming years as the plants we host are all either scheduled for retirement or being considered for retirement in the coming years. The creation of this program would be a major step toward supporting the communities that will be most directly impacted by this transition.

For my City of Becker, taxes attributable to the Sherco Coal Plant make up 70% of our local tax base, and contribute a significant share of the county and school district tax base as well. The same is true for our colleagues in cities across the state. By investing in efforts to provide our communities support through this transition, Community Energy Transition grants will help us responsibly plan for and execute a post-plant future for our cities while protecting our taxpayers and promoting responsible development.

The creation of this program is a great start, but we also recognize that not all impacted communities will be eligible for these funds. We look forward to working with you in the future to find tools and programs to support all communities and workers that will be impacted.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our state.

Sincerely,

Greg Pruszinske
Becker City Administrator
President, Coalition of Utility Cities