

February 14, 2023

Dear Chair Lislegard, Vice Chair Lee, Representative Quam and Minnesota House of Representatives Property Tax Division Committee Members:

On behalf of the 29,000 members and family members of Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota, I am writing to express our strong support for HF 1427, which would provide transition aid to local governments that host retiring power plants.

LIUNA members are proud to build and maintain our state's transportation, water, energy, and building infrastructure. We recognize that Minnesota's infrastructure needs are shifting as we cope with a changing climate, and as public and private sectors across the globe pursue decarbonization.

LIUNA is committed to a clean energy transition that makes our state, industries and workforce stronger, more prosperous, and more competitive. We are also committed to a prosperous future for the power plant workforce and host communities that have kept the lights on for generations.


Power plant host communities such as Becker and Cohasset face a formidable challenge in replacing lost businesses, jobs and tax revenues caused by power plant retirements. While there will be some opportunities to repurpose existing infrastructure for new forms of generation, even under the best circumstances, new renewable and storage projects are no economic substitute for existing power plants.

Hundreds of LIUNA members work, live, and raise families in power plant host communities. It will be challenging enough for them to find new work opportunities, let alone pay higher tax bills or watch local services decline as plant retirements leave gaping holes in local budgets.

Host communities have powered Minnesota for generations, and we have a responsibility to help them secure a just economic transition. HF 1427 would provide needed financial aid to host communities, allowing them to maintain services needed to maintain a decent standard of living for residents and attract new investment. We ask members of the committee to support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

In Solidarity,



Joel Smith
President and Business Manager
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota