



City of Grand Meadow

113 Main Street North, P.O. Box 38
Grand Meadow, Minnesota 55936
Phone 507-754-5280 • Fax 507-754-7280

February 26, 2025

Re: Support for HF 1040

Chair and Members of the House Energy Finance and Policy Committee:

This morning I was made aware of HF 1040. I don't know if the bill came about because of the situation that we had with discarded windmill blades down here in Grand Meadow, or if you were even aware of that when the bill was drafted. If not, a quick search of "Grand Meadow Windmill Blades" and a look at docket 06-91 on the MN eDocket site should give you a bit of background on our issue and reinforce the importance of this bill. We fought for nearly 4 years to get decommissioned turbine blades that were improperly and illegally stored in our city removed, which was finally achieved by an order of the Public Utilities Commission in the fall of last year.

I appreciate the fact that the waste-end of renewables is being given some attention, as I wouldn't want to see another Minnesota town have to go through what we did. Quite frankly, I don't believe most small cities have the resources to deal with it. Planning for the waste on the front end of a project is important, but enforcing the plan on the back end may be even more important.

I understand that the answer to the situation we found ourselves in may fall across a number of agencies. The PUC admitted that their permitting process needed to be improved on the decommissioning end of it, and my belief is that the MPCA found itself in a situation that it lacked the teeth to deal with.

On behalf of the City of Grand Meadow, I support HF 1040 and hope it prevents another Minnesota town becoming a "turbine graveyard."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James S. Christian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James Christian
City Administrator

MAYOR – Tim Fenton

CITY ADMINISTRATOR – James Christian

CLERK-TREASURER – Chris Hyrkas

COUNCILORS – Caden Fruth, Thomas Oehlke, Blayne Stejskal, Isaac Tangen