



Dear Chair Heintzeman and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources
Finance and Policy Committee

As labor organizations representing 25,000 union construction workers and their families, we write to express our support for HF 28. Our members build and maintain Minnesota's critical infrastructure across a wide array of sectors—including the energy and IT sectors.

We thank Representative Mekeland for bringing this important bill forward which would simplify permitting for back-up generators needed for new large data centers. Our unions supported last year's clean energy permitting efficiency bill and we have supported plans like those put forward by Xcel Energy to transition towards clean energy resources.

However, we have always believed that it is critical that we support the workers and communities who are negatively impacted by the energy transition. Data centers, especially one at Becker, present a significant opportunity for our members and tax revenue for the local communities impacted by the transition.

We, of course, recognize that data centers have large electricity needs, but that is why it is critical that these data centers be sited in Minnesota—where we are making significant progress towards decarbonization. The overwhelming majority of the electricity needs for these facilities will be met by our utilities and their increasing clean energy generation. But backup is necessary for emergency situations.

Having a streamlined, clear, process for permitting these backup facilities will be important for attracting these facilities and generating good paying jobs for our members.

Sincerely,

John Pollard, Political Director, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49

Richard Kolodziejski, Public Affairs Director, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters