



## Sherburne County Board of Commissioners

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March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Hon, Chris Swedzinski, Co-Chair  
Hon. Patty Acomb, Co-Chair  
Minnesota House Energy Finance and Policy Committee  
658 Cedar St.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Sherburne County Support for HF 4703

Dear Co-Chairs Swedzinski and Acomb;

Thank you for allowing Sherburne County to submit this letter of support for HF 4703.

Like Minnesota, Sherburne County has a longstanding history with safe and reliable power generation, including that derived from nuclear energy. Since 1976 we have hosted Xcel Energy's Sherburne County Generating Station.

We were also home to Minnesota's first nuclear power generation facility - the Elk River Atomic Reactor, commissioned in August 1963 and operated by the Rural Cooperative Power Association of Elk River until 1968. This was the first commercial nuclear reactor operated by a rural cooperative in the United States.

Today we are home to nearly 1000 Mega Watts in modern solar power production, significant transmission and distribution infrastructure (both electricity and gas), and serviced by five dynamic energy providers – spanning municipal, cooperative, and regulated utilities.

Finally, with the Monticello Nuclear Power Plant nearby, we continue to support safe and reliable nuclear power generation in Minnesota through emergency preparedness activities, mutual assistance, and regional coordination.

In August, Sherburne County joined the Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance (MNEA) in support of the repeal of Minnesota's moratorium on nuclear energy production to ensure safe, clean, and reliable baseload energy for all Minnesotans, especially as the State advances its 2040 goal for 100% carbon-free electricity generation.

Further, cognizant of past and ongoing concerns over location and operations of such facilities, we are also open to locating and hosting safe, reliable nuclear energy production facilities in Sherburne County.

As such, we are supportive of House File 4703 as a necessary first step in evaluating the efficacy of nuclear power generation as part of the State's evolving approach to meeting both current and future energy needs.

In doing so, Sherburne County pledges to be a reliable and willing local partner, cognizant that we share a similar past, present, and – hopefully - future in our use of and reliance upon safe, clean, and reliable nuclear energy.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Gray". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Gary Gray  
District 4 Commissioner