



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

May 2, 2023

Chair Champion, Chair Hassan, and Conferees to SF 3035:

On behalf of the Coalition of Utility Cities (CUC), I write to thank you for the inclusion of funding and policy provisions in the Jobs and Economic Development bill that are designed to support local governments and workers who will be deeply impacted by the retirement of the state's largest power plants in the coming years.

Community Energy Transition Grants – Funding (Page R5, Appropriations side-by-side)

CUC Recommendation: Adopt the full \$10 million in funding for grants that has been passed off the floor by the House, Senate, and recommended by the Governor.

CUC wants to ensure that conferees to SF 3035 are aware that both bodies, as well as the Governor, have adopted \$10 million in total funding for DEED's Community Energy Transition Grant program. However, while the House and Governor propose all \$10 million from the general fund, the Senate's funding is split between \$5 million from the general fund in this bill, and \$5 million from the Renewable Development Account (RDA) in HF 2310. Either the House or Senate position is acceptable, but it is essential that this program receive the full \$10 million in grants to ensure its success.

Community Energy Transition Grants – Policy (Pages R48-R50, DEED Policy and Economic Development side-by-side)

CUC Recommendation: Adopt all identical language in both bills.

All of this language was carried in SF 1173/HF 1398 and is designed to make the program more successful and collaborative between DEED and our communities.

Extension of the Energy Transition Advisory Committee (Page R5, DEED Policy and Economic Development side-by-side)

CUC Recommendation: Adopt the identical provisions in both bills.

CUC supports this DEED language to extend the existence of an advisory committee of stakeholders that was first assembled in 2021 for the purpose of creating an Energy Transition Plan to support local governments and workers impacted by plant retirements. Extending the advisory committee will provide for ongoing collaboration between multiple stakeholders and position the state's community and worker transition efforts for success.

Thank you

With any questions, please feel free to contact the CUC's legislative representation, Shane Zahrt of Flaherty & Hood, at SAZahrt@flaherty-hood.com or (651) 295-1123.

Sincerely,

Max Peters
City Administrator, City of Cohasset
President, Coalition of Utility Cities