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March 16, 2021

Chair Long and Members of the Committee:

Mr Chair and committee members thank you for the opportunity to share our support for House File 2054. I would first like to thank Representative Christensen for carrying this bill and for the time the committee is taking to discuss the bill.

MN Power has proudly served Northeastern MN for over a century. We have been on an important transition over the last decade as we have transitioned our fleet of generation resources from predominantly coal based to a more diversified and less carbon intense portfolio. This is good for the environment and has been done with reliability and affordability in mind but has meant significant change for our communities and workers.

MN Power recently filed its latest integrated resource plan, in which the commission required the review of early retirement scenarios for our final two coal units, Boswell Units 3 and 4, in Cohasset. After careful analysis, and with robust stakeholder input, we have outlined a plan to thoughtfully and pragmatically move toward a retirement of unit 3 in 2030 and to cease coal operations at MP's unit 4 operation in 2035 with an eye towards utilizing this infrastructure with low carbon solutions. While this plan gives us some lead time to work towards a just transition for communities and workers, it will certainly take a thoughtful and coordinated effort to support this end. House File 2054 provides a meaningful path towards facilitating the continued discussion around this important topic. We again thank the chief author, our IBEW partners, and committee members for their time.

Sincerely,

Thor Underdahl

Thor Underdahl
Manager – Government Affairs
Minnesota Power



