



**It's Better
in Becker**

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Chair Jamie Long
Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee
517 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155



Re: Support for House File 1750

Chair Long and Members of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee:



I serve as City Administrator for the City of Becker and President of the Coalition of Utility Cities. I write to express the City of Becker's support for House File 1750, which would call for the creation of a state transition plan for communities and workers that will be impacted by major power plant retirements, while also creating an infrastructure within DEED to help carry out that plan.



First, I thank our own House Member, Rep. Shane Mekeland, for signing on as a co-author of this bill. I also thank Rep. Christensen for bringing this bill forward and to the Committee for considering it.



As this committee is aware, Becker is home to Xcel Energy's Sherburne County Generating Station, also known as "Sherco." Sherco is Xcel's largest coal plant in Minnesota, but all three of the coal-fired units at the plant have been scheduled or proposed by for retirement by 2030. The plant makes up 75% of our tax base while providing hundreds of high-quality, family-sustaining jobs that will be hard to replace.



We are working hard to take this transition head-on by diversifying our tax base and attracting new employers to our community, and we sincerely thank this committee for the support we have received from the legislature in those efforts so far. We are here in support of this proposal because it is the type of forward-thinking, collaborative approach that we feel is needed to carry out the next phases of this transition, both for Becker and our colleagues in other cities around the state.

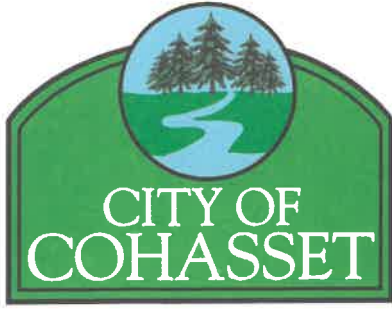


Again, thank you for your consideration of this legislation, and we ask you to see it through to final passage this year.



Sincerely,

Greg Pruszinske
Becker City Administrator
President, Coalition of Utility Cities



Phone: 218-328-6225
Fax: 218-328-6226
Website: www.cohasset-mn.com

305 N.W. First Avenue • Cohasset, Minnesota 55721

March 8, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Cohasset, I am writing to ask for support for HF 1750 and SF 1566.

The City of Cohasset will be impacted by the closure of the Minnesota Power plant and this bill will create assistance with the transition.

I respectfully request that these two items be taken under consideration and supported for the economic development of the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Hagy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Greg Hagy
Mayor of Cohasset



March 8, 2021

Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair
Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee
379 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Letter of Support for HF 1750


Dear Representative Noor;

The City of Grand Rapids fully supports the creation of the Energy Transition Legacy Office under HF 1750.

Although our City does not have a coal fired power plant, the closing of such a facility in the City of Cohasset has major impacts to our businesses and residents through the loss of tax capacity to our school district and county. It also has major negative impacts from an economic perspective.

It is imperative to remember that we are ONE COMMUNITY, with multiple cities and townships. When something bad happens to one of our cities or townships, it negatively affects the rest of the Community and when something positive occurs in one of our cities or townships, it positively affects our Community.

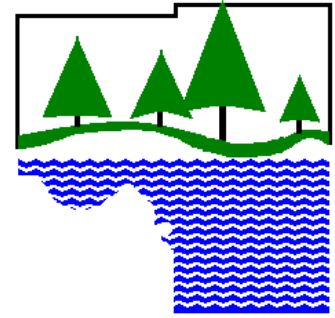
Please pass HF 1750 so that we can create POSITIVE impacts to our COMMUNITY.

Regards,

Tom Pagel, P.E.
City Administrator

CC: Grand Rapids City Council

ITASCA COUNTY

Courthouse
Administrative Services
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600
Office (218) 327-7363 Fax (218) 327-2848



March 8, 2021

TO: House Workforce & Business Development Finance & Policy Committee Members

Thank you for your consideration of HF 1750 which would provide the essential transition support for communities facing imminent power plant retirements. Minnesota is shifting towards a cleaner energy solution, but the transition will greatly impact local jobs, the economy and the tax base.

As you know, every large investor-owned power plant is already scheduled for early retirement or will be considered for retirement within the next 20-years. This is true for Minnesota Power's Boswell energy plant located in the city of Cohasset in Itasca County. The Boswell power plant provides some of the best paying jobs in Itasca County; jobs that simply cannot be readily found in other industries within our County. In addition, Boswell is the primary power source for major infrastructure clients who provide crucial national security resources as well as global trading commodities. Lastly, Boswell contributes highly to our tax base and, plainly stated, transition time is needed to allow communities to adjust and plan for this revenue void.

The creation of the Minnesota Energy Transition Legacy Office would provide the vehicle to assist our local communities the time and expertise needed to assist in the progression process. The new Office will evaluate the impact of power plant retirements, address the concerns regarding lost employment and tax base while providing recommendations to mitigate the impacts to local governments and workers.

Itasca County is in support of HF 1750 and appreciates your assistance in passage of the bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Skyles', written in a cursive style.

Brett Skyles,
Itasca County Administrator

Loren Solberg Consulting, LLC
32314 Prairie Lake Lane
Grand Rapids, MN 55644

To: House of Representative Members
Workforce and Business Development Committee
RE: HF1750
Date: March 8, 2021

Greetings:

As our society transitions from the traditional electrical energy generation facilities that use coal as the main fuel communities, counties, and workers will experience negative impacts to their tax base and the economy. HF 1750 will help those communities, and individual employees, that host those facilities to mitigate that negative impact as power plants are retired.

HF 1750 is designed to develop strategies to successfully help individuals and communities deal with this huge potential economic impact by creating an Energy Transition Legacy Office. By creating this office, there will be a coordinated effort to address the economic impact of communities and workers as power plants are retired.

Governor Walz, as Chair of the Midwest Governor's Council, has made this issue a top priority for that organization. Colorado has already established an Energy Transition Legacy Office and is successfully developing programs and strategies to implement their mission.

At this critical time for many workers and communities that host these power generation facilities, it is in the best interest of the entire State of Minnesota that this Office is created to insure a successful transition is accomplished.

Thank you for your kind consideration of HF 1750.

Sincerely,

Loren A. Solberg