



**AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE**

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[www.asec.net](http://www.asec.net)

Ada-Borup-West  
Climax-Shelly  
East Grand Forks  
Fertile-Beltrami  
Fisher  
Fosston  
Red Lake County Central  
Red Lake Falls  
Stephen-Argyle Central  
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo  
Win-E-Mac

Representative Fue Lee  
Chair, Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee  
485 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Sandra L. Pappas  
Chair, Minnesota Senate Capital Investment Committee  
95 University Avenue  
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2113  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 25, 2024

Dear Chair Lee and Chair Pappas,

We are writing to formally pledge our member districts' support for the Area Special Education Cooperative facility project, as requested.

Our districts are dedicated to ensuring transparency and accountability in this endeavor. We are committed to providing comprehensive information to our school boards to garner their support for this initiative. Leveraging the additional lease levy authority granted by the State of Minnesota in 2023 for cooperatives, we are poised to contribute funds to advance the project, contingent upon the securing of bonding funds outlined in House File 4282 and Senate File 2933.

As you may be aware, the Area Special Education Cooperative is comprised of 11 member school districts through a joint-powers agreement. The cooperative, which operates as a public school district, serves students in Polk, Marshall, Norman, and Red Lake Counties who have the highest needs. With 11 member school districts in northwest Minnesota, the Area Special Education Cooperative plays a critical role in providing essential services to our students.

Our rural areas encounter distinct challenges in providing equitable educational opportunities. It is crucial that all students, regardless of their geographic location, have access to quality educational facilities. The funding proposed in House File 4282 and Senate File 2933 is essential for addressing these challenges and ensuring that our rural cooperative students with extremely high special needs receive the same educational opportunities as their counterparts in metropolitan areas.

Given the financial constraints facing the member districts, state support is vital in achieving this goal. Your endorsement of the bonding request for the Area Special Education Cooperative and the Northern Lights Academy can make a significant difference in the lives of our students.

Thank you for your consideration and support. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact any of the board members listed below.

Sincerely,



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