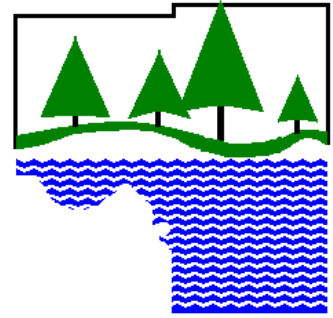


ITASCA COUNTY

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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".

Brett Skyles,
Itasca County Administrator