



**Commissioner
Darek Vetsch
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Chair David Lislegard
House Property Tax Division
451 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for House File 1427

Chair Lislegard and Members of the House Property Tax Division,

On behalf of the Wright County Board of Commissioners, this letter is submitted to express support for House File 1427, which would create a transition aid program for communities facing the retirement of large, investor owned power plants. Wright County is home to Xcel Energy's Monticello Nuclear Generating Station, which makes up roughly 50 percent of the City of Monticello's tax base and 8 percent of the County's.

This legislation is important to Monticello and Wright County in the long term, but it is extremely urgent for our neighbors in the City of Becker and Sherburne County. The Sherco facility in Becker makes up 65 percent of Becker's tax base, and 11.7% of Sherburne County's. The first of the three coal-fired units in Becker will retire **this year**, with the other two units retiring in 2026 and 2030. Each of these retirements will send shockwaves through their community and the greater Sherburne/Wright region.

A program like the one outlined in House File 1427 is essential to giving communities the runway they need to overcome these transitions by redeveloping and diversifying their tax base.

Throughout 2022, I served as a member of DEED's Energy Transition Advisory Committee, to make recommendations to the state on how to support communities and workers impacted by power plant retirements. A tax base transition aid program like the one outlined in this bill was that group's top recommendation in the "tax base" section of its report, and I urge you to adopt it this session.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darek Vetsch
Wright County Board Chair