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The Honorable Bill Weber  
Chair, Minnesota Senate Subcommittee on Property Taxes  
2109 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Weber and committee members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive policy solutions to achieve equitable, carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on Senate File 3706 (Weber).

Fresh Energy supports Senator Housley's provision in Article 2, Section 5 of Senate File 3706, relating to transition aid for local governments impacted by the closure of an electric generating plant. As Minnesota continues to transition its electric supply from legacy generation to new, carbon-free generation, it is critical that workers who have kept our lights on and powered our economy, and communities and regional economies hosting our legacy plants, are not left behind. This provision in Senate File 3706 is a meaningful and important step towards addressing this issue through local community funding.

There are several aspects of this bill that we appreciate. In particular, the program design in the bill takes a long-term view of Minnesota's energy transition and establishes a durable framework for supporting communities through a challenging period that will take years, rather than weeks or months, to fully realize. We think the modest expense to the state overall in this bill will be far outweighed by the benefits for local communities during the energy transition.

Minnesota's existing power plants provide family-supporting jobs, local tax revenue, and an economic core for the communities that host them. Fresh Energy is firmly committed to supporting the needs of our existing utility host communities and workers during this time of unprecedented transition for Minnesota's energy system.

Sincerely,

Allen Gleckner  
Lead Director, Clean Electricity  
Fresh Energy