

March 20, 2023

Dear Chair Acomb and Chair Frentz:

On behalf of the 29,000 members and family members of Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota, I am writing to express our strong support for HF1398/SF1173, which would provide transition grants to help host communities plan for power plant retirements.

LIUNA members are proud to build and maintain our state's transportation, water, energy, and building infrastructure. We recognize that Minnesota's infrastructure needs are shifting as we cope with a changing climate, and as public and private sectors across the globe pursue decarbonization.

LIUNA is committed to a clean energy transition that makes our state, industries and workforce stronger, more prosperous, and more competitive. We are also committed to a prosperous future for the power plant workforce and host communities that have kept the lights on for generations.

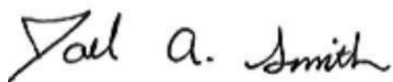
Power plant host communities such as Becker and Cohasset face a formidable challenge in replacing lost businesses, jobs and tax revenues caused by plant retirements. While there will be some opportunities to repurpose existing infrastructure for new forms of generation, even under the best circumstances, new renewable and storage projects are no economic substitute for existing power plants.

Hundreds of LIUNA members work, live, and raise families in plant host communities that have powered Minnesota for generations. We have a responsibility to help these communities to secure a just economic transition.

HF1398/SF1173 will provide the resources local leaders need to plan for the future and attract needed jobs and investment. We ask members of the committee to support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

In Solidarity,



Joel Smith
President and Business Manager
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota