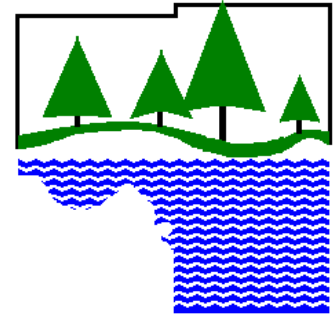


# ITASCA COUNTY

Courthouse  
Administrative Services  
123 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600  
Office (218) 327-7363 Fax (218) 327-2848



February 13, 2023

Senator Champion, Chair  
Senator Mohamed, Vice Chair  
Senator Draheim, Ranking Minority Member

RE: Support of SF 1173 – Community Energy Transition Grant Program

Mr. Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering this bill that would put \$10 million much needed dollars to support planning and economic development in power plant host communities.

Itasca County is home to the Minnesota Power Boswell Energy Plant located in the City of Cohasset. It provides most of the tax base to Cohasset and is the second largest property tax payer in Itasca County. Through a recent MPCA negotiated decision, we know the latest date coal operations will continue at the power plant – 2035. Even though this may seem like ample time to provide for a transition, one can safely assume that replacing this large of tax base will be nigh impossible – as evidenced by the recent decision by Huber to NOT build a plant in Cohasset.

Equally important to replacing the anticipated loss in property tax is finding equitable employment opportunities for any displaced workers. Minnesota Power provides well-paying, family-sustaining employment for our County and we need to continue to invest in our most valued resource – our workforce.

I implore your support of SF 1173 which will provide host communities assistance in the State's energy transition.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Skyles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brett Skyles, Itasca County Administrator