



414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

February 19, 2025

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee,

We appreciate Representative Schultz for bringing the issues outlined in HF 47 forward. At Xcel Energy, the safety and reliability of our infrastructure is paramount. We continuously work with our utility peers to enhance safety and avoid hits to our critical infrastructure, but even with this positive working relationship, we continue to struggle to reduce the number of hits to our infrastructure each year.

The primary concern we would like to share with committee members is the language on lines 2.1 and 2.2 of the bill. Due to environmental and human factors such as erosion or landscaping, it is possible that the depth of our utility underground facilities may be less than 36 inches. Consequently, excavators should not be exempt from exercising care up to that depth. We would like to work with the bill author and interested parties to find an alternative way to balance the need for enhanced safety and the increased efficiency as sought by the bill's advocates.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation and please let me know if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

/s/

BRIA SHEA  
XCEL ENERGY  
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, PLANNING AND POLICY