

March 12, 2025

Chair Heintzeman and members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee

On behalf of the 14,000 members of Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota and their families, I am writing to express our concern about the potential for HF 1040 to increase costs for utility ratepayers and reduce high-quality jobs for local construction workers.

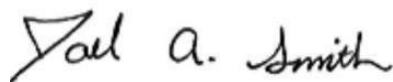
We want to be clear that we share the bill authors' concern for the environmentally-sound, timely and responsible management of components and materials that make up our critical infrastructure when that infrastructure requires substantial upgrades or reaches end-of-life. However, when addressing this challenge, it is important to avoid reinventing the wheel or imposing requirements that will incur additional costs to consumers and businesses—outweighing their benefits.

In the case of utility-scale energy infrastructure permitted by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, there are robust processes in place that obligate permit holders to fully decommission retiring infrastructure and properly dispose of all related waste. The Commission already has authority to enforce these requirements and has acted when necessary to ensure that infrastructure owners follow through on commitments.

At best, HF 1040 would duplicate systems already in place for state-permitted projects and impose significant costs on utility ratepayers, who would end up footing the bill to set up new administrative systems. At worst, the bill could make it difficult for utilities to procure needed components from suppliers who could choose to sell their wares to buyers in states with less burdensome requirements.

We are also concerned that singling out particular energy technologies and types of infrastructure could set an unfortunate precedent and deter future energy investment. For example, we have opposed similar proposals that would substantially increase the cost of decommissioning gas and oil pipelines at the end of their lives while delivering little or no public benefit. We urge members of the committee to avoid adding unnecessary burdens to the development of any of Minnesota's energy resources.

Sincerely,



Joel Smith
President and Business Manager
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota