



## **Renewable Energy Resolution Adopted by MN Building Trades 71<sup>st</sup> Convention (July 28, 2017)**

Whereas wind, solar, and other sources of renewable energy account for a rapidly growing share of energy production in Minnesota and across the nation; and

Whereas unions affiliated with the Minnesota Building Trades have assisted in the growth of the renewable energy industry through support for renewable energy projects and policies that promote the further development of the industry; and

Whereas union members affiliated with the Minnesota Building Trades have invested in the growth of the renewable energy industry through our affiliated labor-management pension funds; and

Whereas Minnesota's construction industry provides family-supporting employment and careers to tens of thousands of local skilled workers; and

Whereas wind, solar, and other renewable energy projects have the potential to create family-supporting jobs and careers for skilled local construction workers, especially in parts of Greater Minnesota where jobs that offer family-supporting pay and benefits are in short supply; and

Whereas the use of skilled union labor to build renewable energy projects can help to offset some of the negative workforce impacts of conventional power plant closures, and make it easier for workers who have pursued careers in the conventional power industry to transition to other family-supporting employment; and

Whereas these benefits have already been realized on many renewable energy projects where the developers and owners selected responsible contractors that employ local union labor; and

Whereas these potential benefits are lost when developers and owners of renewable energy projects select nonunion contractors that rely largely on out-of-state workers, denying needed employment opportunities to local workers; and

Whereas Minnesota's construction workforce is among the most skilled and productive in the nation, and is more than capable of meeting demand for renewable energy construction;

Therefore be it resolved that the Minnesota Building Trades and its affiliated unions call on renewable energy developers, project owners, an investors to commit to hire local skilled workers, and employ responsible contractors that provide area standard wages and benefits and maintain safe workplaces; and

Be it further resolved that, while the Minnesota Building Trades and its affiliated unions will continue to support renewable energy projects that we believe will create high-quality jobs for local skilled construction workers, we will oppose future projects that we believe will largely exclude local workers from construction employment opportunities or put workers at risk as a result of unsafe or unfair employment practices.