

# Protect Greater Minnesota Jobs

The 2017 omnibus Jobs and Economic Development bill passed during the last legislative session included a provision with **NEGATIVE IMPACTS** on our Greater Minnesota businesses.

Under this new law, a biomass power facility may be shut down because Xcel Energy believes it is too expensive to operate. This law spells out significant relief to the host city of this facility (Benson) but **IT FAILS** to offer any assistance to the biomass suppliers and transporters that make that plant run. It also fails to put in to law any responsibility on the power purchaser to respond to the serious potential impact such a closure would have on suppliers.

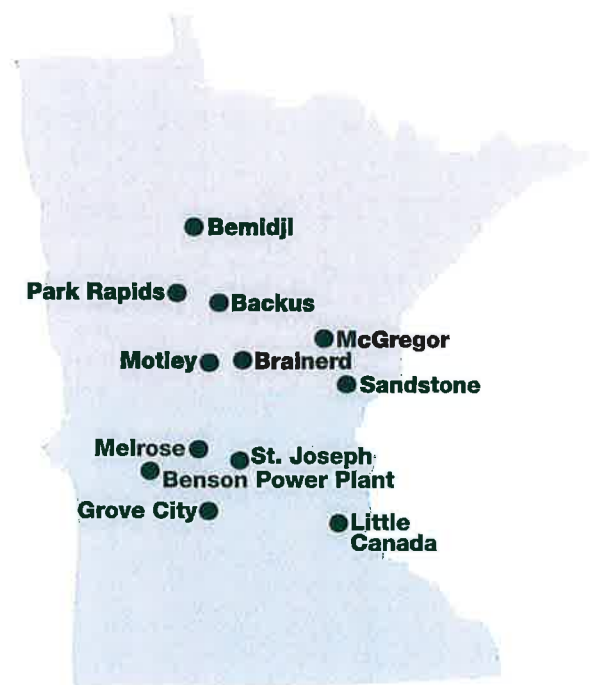
Many in Minnesota's logging and trucking industry will be **DEVASTATED** by this legislation that allows Xcel Energy to close the Benson biomass power facility.

**The threat is real.** On July 5, 2017, Xcel Energy moved forward with its petition at the Public Utilities Commission to close the Benson power facility.

The Benson Power Biomass Suppliers are located throughout **GREATER MINNESOTA** including the communities of:

These suppliers signed contracts and invested millions of dollars under reasonable reliance that the Benson power plant would continue to operate at least through 2029, as directed under MN law.

To allow the plant to close without consideration of supplier investments would have a chilling effect throughout the industry, costing Greater Minnesota jobs.



## We encourage state policymakers to:

- 1. Delay any action on plant closures and expenditures from the Renewable Development Fund (RDF) until the conclusion of a legislatively mandated economic impact study is completed.**
- 2. Ensure that the study include not only the "impacts on ancillary providers of goods and services" but also include a measurement of investments made by biomass suppliers.**
- 3. Advocate for proper, responsible financial relief for Benson Power Biomass Suppliers that accounts for the resources that have been invested as a result of state energy policy.**