

From: [Brian Fleming](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: [Dan Weber](#)
Subject: Comments Regarding Docket No. G-999/CI-21-565
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 1:57:29 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
Comments of Sherburne County Economic Development Authority Staff on Docket No. G-999.CI-21-565.pdf

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Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,

Good afternoon- Attached is a Letter of Comments from the Sherburne County Economic Development Authority staff in regard to the Commission Evaluation of Changes to Natural Gas Utility Regulatory and Policy Structures- Docket No. G-999/CI-21-565. I am submitting these comments as an attachment as indicated by the "Filing a comment" section of the MN PUC website. Please let me know if you'll need anything further from me directly to ensure our comments are received and filed.

Thank you,



**Brian Fleming, Economic Development Coordinator
Administration**

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September 2, 2025

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Comments of Sherburne County Economic Development Authority on a Commission Evaluation of Changes to Natural Gas Utility Regulatory and Policy Structures- Docket No. G-999/CI-21-565

Dear Commissioners,

The opportunity to provide comments on the Commission's Docket No. G-999/CI-21-565 regarding Minnesota's natural gas regulatory framework is appreciated. Though Minnesota's lower-carbon energy future goals are well understood, it's vital that any policy reforms or updates continually serve the needs of our Sherburne County residents.

According to Sherburne County's 2024 Comprehensive Housing Needs Analysis, prepared by Maxfield Research & Consulting, an estimated 18.5% of Sherburne County owner households and 41% of renter households are cost burdened. Any changes in policy which reduce natural gas availability or increase natural gas cost will have a direct and negative impact on Sherburne County's residents, only raising the number of cost-burdened households. Sherburne County's median for-sale price for homes is now at an all-time high of \$375,000. The elimination of the natural gas line extension policy would only raise the price of new homes going onto the market.

Sherburne County already faces a serious housing shortage. To keep pace with the county's 11% population growth by 2030, over 5,000 new housing units will need to be constructed and sold. This represents the need for over 2,100 new for-sale single family and multifamily units, 900 new rental units, and 2,200 new senior housing units. The Sherburne County EDA has prioritized housing as an area of focus in its current strategic plan and has a particular interest in supporting the development of affordable housing units in the county. Any increase in construction costs, which any reduction of Minnesota's natural gas current regulatory framework will create, would place further strain on Sherburne County's housing options and affordability.

Staff from Sherburne County Administration and EDA appreciate this opportunity to voice concern regarding any changes to Minnesota's natural gas regulatory framework which would unduly and negatively impact the availability and affordability of housing options throughout Sherburne County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Fleming".

Brian Fleming, Economic Development Coordinator & Executive Director to the
Sherburne County EDA