

Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

9C				
Agenda Item #				

Requested Meeting Date: June 25, 2024

Title of Item: Adopt Resolution Finding that a State of Emergency Exists in Aitkin County

🖌 REGULAR AGENDA	Action Requested:		Direction Requested				
CONSENT AGENDA	Approve/Deny Motion		Discussion Item				
	Adopt Resolution (attach dr *provide	Hold Public Hearing*					
Submitted by:		Departm	ent:				
Patrice Erickson		Sheriff					
Presenter (Name and Title): Jessica Seibert			Estimated Time Needed: 5 min				
Summary of Issue:							
Due to a severe weather outbreak on a second unconfirmed tornado, damag has caused damages to County and to	ges across sections of the County hav	ve impacted	Aitkin County. This tornado				
A local emergency request resolution funding.	with the Board Chair and County Adm	ninistrator si	gnatures is required to access				
Alternatives, Options, Effects or	Others/Comments:						
Recommended Action/Motion:							
Adopt Finding that a State of Emergency Exists in Aitkin County Resolution.							
Financial Impact:							
Is there a cost associated with this		/	Vo				
What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$							
Is this budgeted?	No Please Exp	iali I.					

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADOPTED June 25, 2024

20240625-xxx

By Commissioner: xxx

Resolution Finding that a State of Emergency Exists in Aitkin County

WHEREAS, a tornado in Aitkin County on June 12th has caused destruction of trees, power supply systems, and buildings

WHEREAS, Mille Lacs Energy and Farm Island Township has neither the manpower or resources needed to do the repairs and debris cleanup on all of the effected sites immediately

WHEREAS, the damage caused by these storms is excessive in cost

THEREFORE, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners FINDS as follows:

- 1. That a state of emergency exists within Aitkin County, arising from the tornados destruction of power supply systems, buildings and debris clean up
- 2. That the public health, safety, and welfare would suffer by the delay to perform needed repairs to the power supply systems, and buildings

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this 25th day of June, 2024, by the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners, that Aitkin County declare emergency until the completion of these repairs to roads, buildings, and power supply systems.

Commissioner xxx seconded the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

XXX MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting xxx

STATE OF MINNESOTA} COUNTY OF AITKIN}

I, Jessica Seibert, County Administrator, Aitkin County, Minnesota do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in the Administration Office of Aitkin County in Aitkin, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said Board on the <u>25th day</u> of <u>June 2024</u>, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal this 25th day of June 2024

J. Mark Wedel Aitkin County Board Chair Jessica Seibert County Administrator



AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Government Center 307 2nd Street NW, Room 310 Aitkin, MN 56431 jessica.seibert@co.aitkin.mn.us Phone: 218-927-7276 Fax: 218-927-7374

June 25, 2024

Governor Tim Walz 130 State Capitol 75 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Disaster Assistance

Dear Governor Walz:

Due to a severe weather outbreak on June 12, 2024, which spawned one confirmed tornado touchdown, and possibly a second unconfirmed tornado, damages across sections of the County have impacted Aitkin County. This tornado has caused damages to County and township infrastructure as well as private structures in Aitkin County.

Aitkin County submitted a Damage and Impact Assessment Report to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM), which indicated tornado related damages in excess of the Aitkin County State threshold. As a result of our initial damage estimates Aitkin County requested HSEM to conduct a State Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA).

Aitkin County is requesting state disaster assistance in accordance with Minnesota Statute 12B.30, pending the outcome from the results of the PDA and County Board approval.

Sincerely,

Jessica Seibert, MPNA County Administrator Aitkin County

Cc: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Board Meeting Attendance Record

Date: June 25, 2024

	Please check the boxes that apply			
Name	Aitkin County Citizen	Aitkin County Employee	Company Representative – Please list	
Hidy Mallaur: Zuch Golkowski (MN Power)	yes		HEAS Advisory	
Zuch Golkowski (MN Power)	NO	No	Minnesota Power - NRP	
GALLA TVEN	Yes	NO	Self	
MARK JERSERS			ELAN DEV.	
Chins Haca	1		Glen Sty	
Mille Putmy	N.	No	Minneyitz Pirce - Nor?	
Andrea Miller	Yes	WC	Self	
Granden Kollermann	YESS	NO	Self	
Brea Hundorf	Ч	Y		
ANDREW CARLSTROM	Y	Y	ESPZ	

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Board Meeting Attendance Record

Date: JUNE 25, 2024

1.00

	Please check the boxes that apply			
Name	Aitkin County Citizen	Aitkin County Employee	Company Representative – Please list	
Bolsbie Danielson		×	HR	



The Committee for the Awareness & Prevention of Suicide (CAPS)

STACEY DURGIN SMITH,

PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATOR, SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATOR, CAPS FACILITATOR

"Together we can do great things."

- MOTHER TERESA

Youth suicide alerts county that it is a public health concern

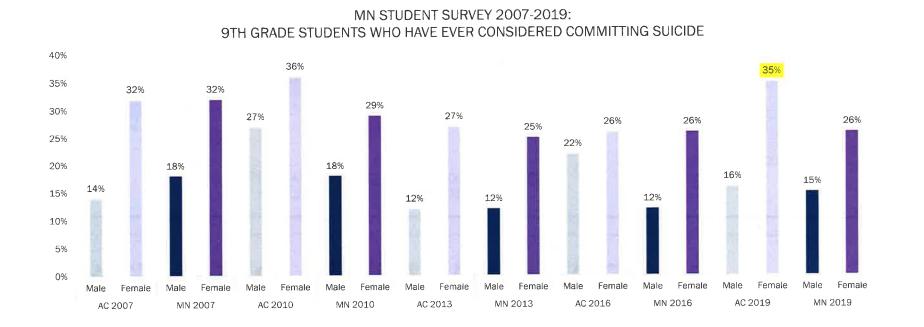
2017 Public Health began

- •Working on positive mental health
- Discussing suicide
- Reducing suicide death
- 2017-2018 Community Readiness Assessment
- •Aitkin County scored 2.78: Readiness Level of "Denial/Resistance"

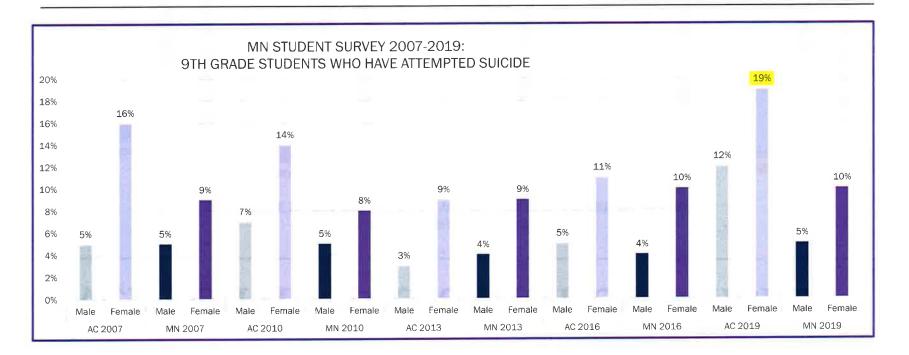
MN Student Survey 2007-2019

9TH GRADE STUDENTS

Ever considered death by suicide



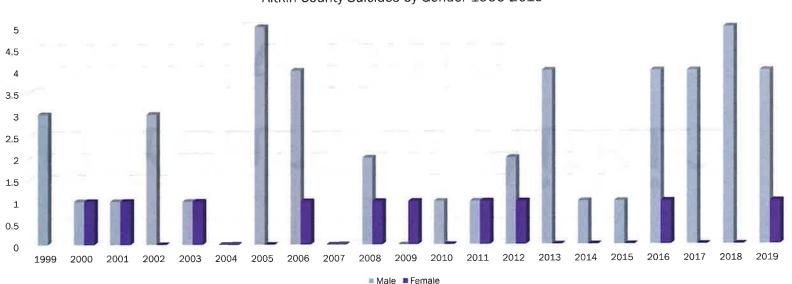
Ever tried to kill themselves



20 Years of Aitkin County Data

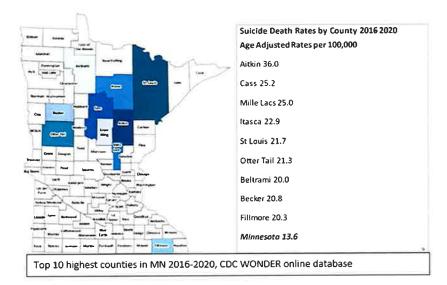
MDH CENTER OF HEALTH STATISTICS

1999-2019: Over 80% male



Aitkin County Suicides by Gender 1999-2019

2016-2020 rates by County in MN



Committee for the Awareness & Prevention of Suicide formed





- Brea Hamdorf, PHN for H&HS
- Healthcare
- Mental Health
- Schools
- Faith Communities
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Getting the Word Out: Suicide Prevention/Crisis Lines



COVID Pause



Department Operations Center:

- Incident Command-Erin Melz
- Operations Chief-Brea Hamdorf
- Planning Chief-Stacey Durgin Smith
- Mental Health Advisor-Kim Larson
 - Behavioral Mental Health Unit



The independent source for health policy research, polling, and news.

The Implications of COVID-19 for Mental Health and Substance Use

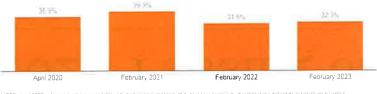
Nirmita Panchal, Heather Saunders, Robin Rudowitz, and Cynthia Cox

Published: Mar 20, 2023

Concerns about mental health and substance use remain elevated three years after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, with 90% of U.S. adults believing that the country is facing a mental health crisis...."

Figure 1

The Share of Adults Reporting Symptoms of Anxiety and/or Depressive Disorder During, the COVID-19 Pandemic



NOTE April 2020 is the earliest data vielable. Adults resing Symptoms of depressive or an very deproter where determined based on nowing a socie of 5 or more on the Patient Health didestionnaite (PFIQL), and/or Generalized Analety Ostroder (GAD), I scale. The reference period this the GAD(2) and PHOL9 duestions changed from the 'past 7 days' to the 'past 2 weeks' beginning in August 2021. Nowever trends remained stable

SOURCE KFF analysis at U.S. Census Excesul mousehold Hulke Survey 2020-2023 * PNG

Figure 3

Share of High School Students with Persistent Feelings of Hopelessness and Sadness, Before and During the Pandemic, by Sex

2019 📕 2021



2022 Passing of the Baton

Disease Prevention & Control PHN to Public Health Educator

- Readiness Assessment: 3.25 Vague Awareness
- GAPS Analysis of Aitkin County Infrastructure
- Suicide prevention, risk assessment and postvention planning in all Aitkin County school districts.
- Media awareness campaign to reduce stigma
- Outreach at the Rivers & Lakes Fair and the Aitkin County Fair

Reach Out & Reduce Stigma







 Participants asked for feedback regarding mental health/illness, suicide, and substance use

FIRST: Teenagers (13-18 years old) SECOND: Men and LGBTQ+ persons THIRD: Women and people with a history of substance use

FIRST: Schools SECOND: Emergency responders THIRD: Churches, corrections, and businesses

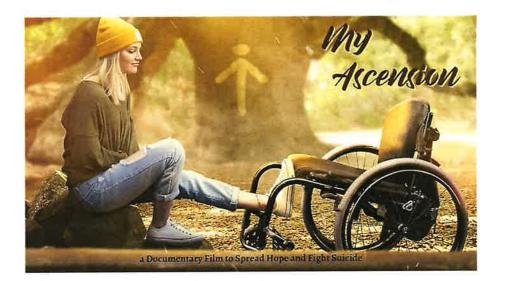
FIRST: More education - signs of mental illness/thoughts of suicide

SECOND: More education-helping someone THIRD: Community Awareness Events

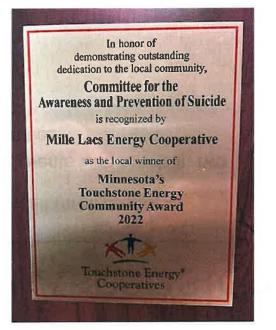
My Ascension

Events in all three schools.

Evening events with meals in two communities.



Touchstone Energy Awards





Funding Transition





Health care that starts with you.^{5M}

Region V⁺ Adult Mental Health

2023 Outreach & Education

Have FAITH:

A Suicide Prevention Workshop for Faith Communities

February 28th, 3:30-5:00 PM Aitkin Public Library (Community Room) 110 1st Avenue NE



An ORIGINAL documentary



Most respondents reported that they knew the symptoms of anxiety, depression, & bipolar disorder. Less than half of respondents felt that they knew the symptoms of PTSD and schizophrenia.

Lived Experience:

4/5 of respondents reported that they knew how to access crisis services. 2/3 reported that they knew how to find a therapist. Less than 1/2 reported that they knew how to get services for their child.

The majority of participants cited the following as barriers most of the time: Needed services don't exist. Wait time for services. Cost of services. Hours of availability.

Most respondents also reported these barriers occurring occasionally: Not meeting the qualifications (enrollment process). Greater success receiving/accessing services when a practitioner calls with or on my behalf.

Respondents indicated that the largest gaps in services were inpatient mental health services and psychiatric providers.

Access to Mental Health Resources & Suicide Prevention Education

Mental Health & Suicide Prevention





2024 Continuing to increase access

ABOUT US

Our mission is to educate and promote the awareness of suicide prevention and resources to all

FACTS

Asking someone directly if they're thinking about suicide wonit, "Put the idea in their head," Most will be relieved when someone starts a conversation.



If you or someone you know is struggling with aucidal thoughts, reach out. Call the Crisis Line & Refermi Service at 218-828-4357 or call or text 988.

Men's Campaign

Flyers

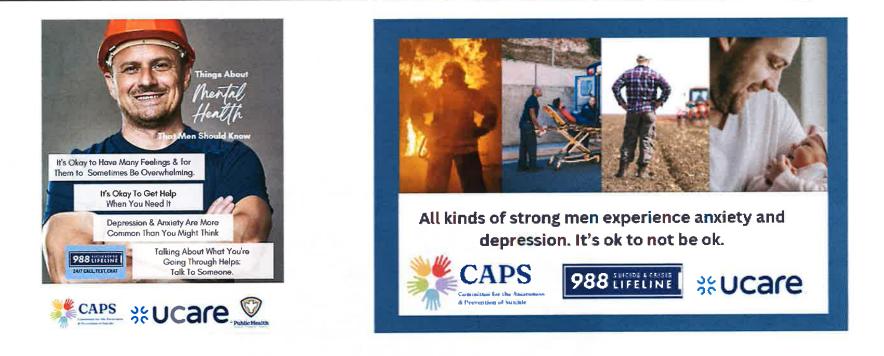
I'm worried about you. You've been under a lot of stress. Are you ok? Oh, I'm (NOT) fine.

If you are really worried, don't accept the, "I'm fine," line.

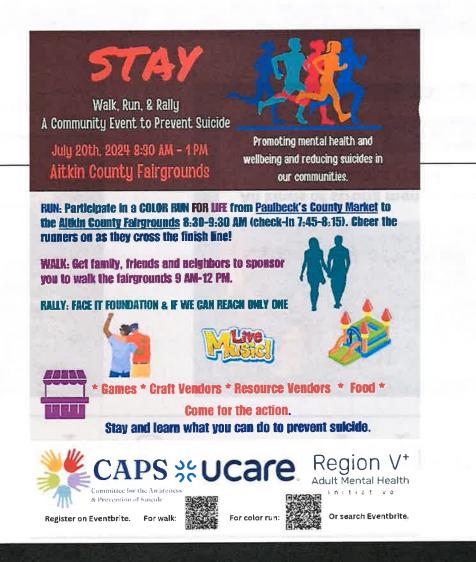
It is ok to not be ok.



Men's Campaign Newspaper Ads



STAY Walk, Run, & Rally

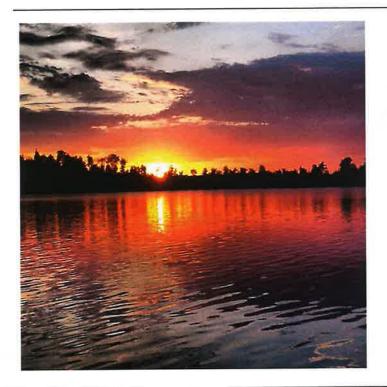


You can Walk or Run....



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Funding sunset





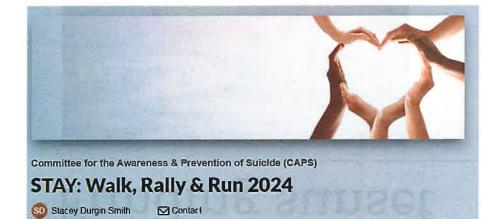
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Volunteer or Register, Spread the Word!









STAY Color Run for Life

eventbrite

Paulbeck's County Market Saturday, July 20, 2024 at 7:45 AM CDT



STAY Memory & Honor Walk for Wellbeing

Aitkin County Fairgrounds Saturday, July 20, 2024 at 9:00 AM CDT



TO STRENGTHEN AND PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELLBEING OF INDIVIDUALS IN AITKIN COUNTY.

TO MAKE A POSITIVE AND LASTING DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF AITKIN COUNTY CITIZENS.





WE RESPECT! RELIABLE : EMPOWERING : SERVICE FOCUSED : PROFESSIONAL : EXCELLENCE : COMMITMENT : TEAMWORK



Public Health and Human Services 204 1st Street NW Aitkin, MN 56431 218.927.7200 https://co.aitkin.mn.us/departments/hhs/hhs-home.html



AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

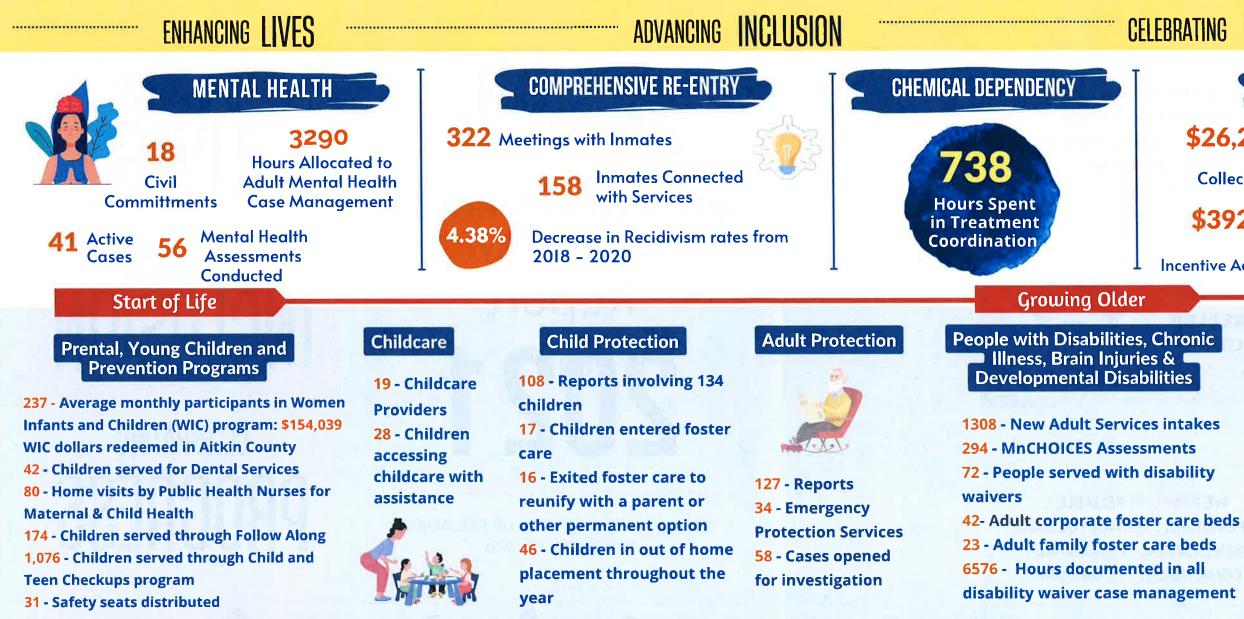
Report **2021**

THIS DATA IS A SNAPSHOT OF THE WORK CONDUCTED IN 2021



ENHANCING ADVANCING INCLUSION CELEBRATING

CELEBRATING PROGRESS



\$39,763 ,000 Estimated amount spent for ALL Medical Assistance Program Services paid out for Aitkin County Residents

Safety Net / Economic Support

4306 - Monthly average of individuals receiving Medical Assistance 122 - Monthly average of individuals receiving General Assistance or MN **Supplemental Assistance**

4 - Households received Emergency Assistance

39 - Adults, 92 Children and 51 Households receiving Minnesota Family **Investment Program and Diversionary Work Program benefits per month** 1131 Individuals and 662 Households, on average per month, received **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

66 - Monthly average number of persons receiving housing supports

Child Support

598 - Cases 1.2 Million - Collected to support custodial parents

Food Hub



115 - Market Boxes of food distributed \$2670 - Amount of dollars Local

Vendors spent on purchases through the Food Hub

COVID-19

4417 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or booster COVID -19 Vaccines given 1000 - Masks distributed to the community 990 - test kits given to community members

CELEBRATING PROGRESS

FINANCIAL RECOVERY

Collected Public Assistance \$26,200 **Program Overpayments**

Collected in Agency Claims \$29,466

\$392,443 Total Collected in Medical Assistant Estate Recovery

Incentive Achieved for Aitkin County \$109,843

Aging and the Elderly

.....

6316 - Hours documented in Elderly **Waiver Care Coordination 10** - Individuals served through family residential services **118** - Individuals served through The **Elderly Waiver and Alternative Care** program that help seniors stay in their homes **28** - Individuals served through care coordination whom reside in community skilled nursing facilities

Disease Prevention Control

7 - Homebound Vaccines administered 8 - Youth/Adolescent immunizations administered 787 - Influenza vaccines administered

Initiatives Include: Suicide Prevention....... Substance Misuse Awareness...... Making a Change...... Statewide Health Improvement Partnership..... Families First Act...... Local Mental Health and Wellbeing Interventions

Public Comment Talking Points for Aitkin County Board Meeting

Mr. Chairman and commissioners, my name is Anita Klennert-Sonaglia. I am the owner of Klennert Stores, Inc. DBA: Roadside Market & Sunny's located in Hill City, MN.

Our stores have been in operation since 1979 & 1996. We have 33 employees who rely on their jobs to support themselves and their families.

I was not in attendance when this law was discussed. I appreciate your concern for children, but I do not see this as any sort of solution to your problem. I see it as an unfair attack on businesses in Aitkin County. The simple fact it does not apply to businesses inside the city of Aitkin, is extremely disturbing and disrespectful in regards to your research efforts. It demonstrates complete neglect for the businesses you should be supporting and representing.

Roadside Market is located 2.5 miles from the Aitkin/Itasca County line. (Sunny's is 3 miles). All rules limiting tobacco in Aitkin County will generate in influx of sales in Grand Rapids! Aitkin County will be generating Income for Itasca County by pushing sales into Grand Rapids.

Adult tobacco users know what they want! Adults in the Hill City area will drive the 14.5 miles to purchase the tobacco they desire. If a customer is driving to purchase tobacco, they will ALSO purchase; alcohol, bait, license, sporting goods, groceries, and other outdoor items at the same time. The Pokegama Lake Store is only 14 miles away, Walmart, Target and Super One are all within 15 miles. The competition to survive while being located this close is a constant battle and you will shut down my business by giving Itasca County the advantage.

The Hill City School District pulls students in from Itasca County! Students are entering from Itasca County daily. Tobacco access will not be controlled by drawing a line 2.5 miles from another county. Our busses transport students in and out of Itasca County! I do not know your ages, but I am assuming you can all relate to this model abused with Alcohol in the 80's... Everyone drove to Wisconsin (1.5 hours away) to purchase alcohol because it was legal. Implementing a law and asking people to drive 15 minutes to Grand Rapids is not going to solve your problem.

Drawing a line just pushes business outside the line and encourages creativity in children to obtain the product, it does not prevent it.

The current condition of the economy, the massive change in labor laws, including medical insurance and paid time off is making it impossible to survive as a small business. The road closures have cut our business in ½ this year to date. The lack of a winter season in combination with the other factors has put us into a state of survival. I am considering layoffs and closures without this new rule, this change will just put the nail in the coffin. Aitkin county should be assisting businesses, helping to building them, encouraging survival and productivity, not forcing them into survival mode because the structure of accountability is damaged.

If you spend any time in Northern Aitkin County, you know the immediate danger for children is not a federally regulated flavored tobacco product. It is a range of meth, marijuana, and other drugs available at any time to children and adults. The ease to purchase anything uncontrolled off the street is so concerning.

I do not know the solution to the problem. Forcing a law to show the public you acknowledge the problem is not the same as solving the problem. This flavored tobacco problem will not be solved at the county level, or anywhere we draw boarder around a community. A line in the sand will always be crossed.

Of all the dangers and drugs available to children right on the dirt roads in Aitkin County, a federally regulated product seems like the lesser of the alternatives. Children are creative and will find a way to experiment, lets hope they do not lean into something more dangerous.

I apologize I do not have a solution for your problem. I do know movement to help protect the children needs to empower communities not suffocate them. Damaging businesses, taking away simple freedoms from law abiding adults does not encourage positivity. It has already created an overwhelming demonstration of disappointment with government control and rebuttal. When local communities learned of the new law there was a wave of negative emotion and rage for loss of something they have the right to choose. Rebuttal and negative environments are the only thing you are creating while damaging businesses in Aitkin County and providing income for surrounding counties.

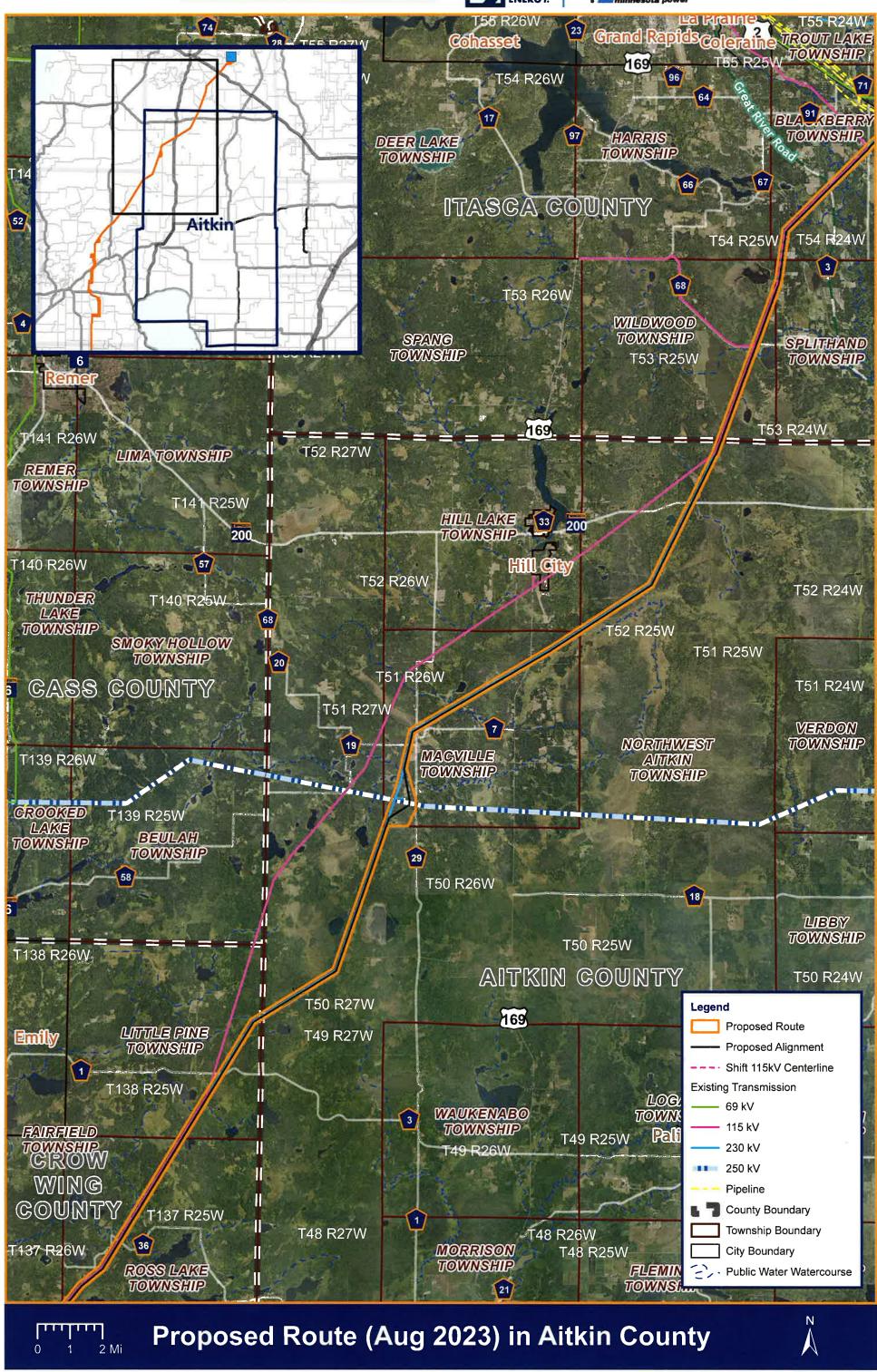
I hope you will all take the time to revisit your rulings and search for an alternative. A line in the sand does not solve this problem. We need to come together as communities and families, we need movements of positivity, waves of solutions from a variety of members at all levels.

Thank you for your time,

Anita Klennert – Sonaglia Klennert Stores, Inc. DBA: Roadside Market & Sunny's 144 Service Drive PO Box 10 Hill City, MN 55748 (218) 398-1492

Northland Reliability Project





Northland Reliability Project



