

February 28, 2022

Chair Senjem and members of the Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the 28,000 members and family members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota, I am writing to express our strong support for the confirmation of John Tuma to a second term on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

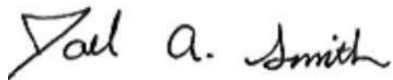
The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission makes decisions on a weekly basis that affect the lives and livelihoods of LIUNA members who pay electric, gas and phone bills based on rates set by the Commission; build and maintain electric generation, gas distribution and pipeline infrastructure projects that are permitted and approved by the Commission; and work at industrial facilities that rely on the affordable, reliable gas and electric service delivered under the Commission's oversight.

Over the past seven years, our members have learned that we can rely on Commissioner Tuma to do his job thoughtfully and well. He gives special care to the impacts ordinary Minnesotans face as utility customers, workers, or landowners who are wondering how a proposed energy facility could affect their community. Commissioner Tuma consistently goes the extra mile to understand the consequences of a potential decision, and once the homework is complete, he isn't afraid to make the tough decisions, even on highly contested issues.

As Minnesota undergoes what may be a challenging transition to lower-carbon energy, we believe that Commissioner Tuma will continue to provide a balanced perspective, a focus on system reliability, and be a strong voice for Greater Minnesota. We can't think of a more qualified candidate to do that job, and urge Senators to act promptly on his confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Joel Smith
President and Business Manager
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota