

Governor's Appointments Committee Report

Committee: Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy

Board/Agency: Public Utilities Commission

Date: 4/6/2021

Name: John Tuma	With Recommendation to Confirm <input type="checkbox"/> Without Recommendation No Recommendation
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NOTE: Pursuant to Senate Rule 8.2, if an appointment is not acted on within **60 legislative days from referral**, the appointment is withdrawn from the committee and sent directly to the Senate floor.



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Governor Tim Walz
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

130 State Capitol + 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Saint Paul, MN 55155-

1611

March 28, 2021

The Honorable Jeremy Miller
President of the Senate
3107 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senate President Miller:

The following appointment is hereby respectfully submitted to the Senate for confirmation as required by law.

Public Utilities Commission:

John Tuma, 4597 Delancy Court, Northfield, Minnesota, in the County of Rice, effective March 30, 2021, for a term expiring January 4, 2027.

Voice: (651) 201-3400 or (800) 657-3717
Website: <http://mn.gov/governor/>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. J. Walz".

Tim Walz
Governor

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MAR 29 2021

President of the Senate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



Governor Tim Walz

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

John Tuma

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Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, an ability, I have appointed you to the office of: MAR 29 2021

Commissioner

President of the Senate

Public Utilities Commission

Effective: March 30, 2021

Expires: January 4, 2027

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed March 25, 2021.



Tim Walz
Governor

T. J. Walz

Steve Simon

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

Filed on March 25, 2021
Office of the Minnesota

Secretary of State,
Steve Simon

Reappointment

Application for the position Member

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Public Utilities Commission
Position: Member

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: John Arlos Tuma
Phone: (612) 991-1093
County: Rice
Mn House District: 20B
US House District: 2
Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False

Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document
Resume	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
No additional documents found. Veteran:	
No Answer	

Part V: Signature

Signature: John A. Tuma
Date: 11/2/2020 AM

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MAR 29 2021

President of the Senate

Page 1 of 1

John A. Tuma
Attorney At Law

4597 Delancey Court
Northfield MN 55057

612-991-1093
Jtuma@charter.net

November 2, 2020

Governor Walz & Lieutenant Governor Flanagan
Minnesota State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

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MAR 29 2021

Re: Public Utilities Commission Application

President of the Senate

Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan:

I'm writing to volunteer to serve another term on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Six years ago, I was both humbled and honored by the trust Governor Dayton placed in me to give a voice to the people of Minnesota on the Commission. I would be equally humbled and honored if you would give me the opportunity to continue to represent them for another 6 years.

I am available to talk with you and your office on the full range of topics related to the Commission's important work at this very exciting time of utility transition. Nonetheless, for this letter of introduction I wanted to emphasize three themes for your consideration: the experience I bring to continued service, my common sense-collaborative-get things done approach and what I believe is a strong policy alignment with your administration's vision on energy transition.

Experience — When first asked 6 years ago to consider seeking appointment on the PUC I felt I had a pretty solid understanding of the Commission. I was one of the lead lobbyists on the passage of the Renewable Energy Standard, Mercury Emissions Reduction legislation and many other policies related to the Commission's work. Soon after starting on the Commission I learned how little I actually did know. I have had a significant education on

the work we do and have gained a substantial institutional knowledge on so many fronts. I feel it's my duty to offer my services to give you the option of keeping that institutional knowledge at the table as we seek to make positive changes in our energy future.

In addition to gaining a deep institutional knowledge of the big issues we are facing I have not been afraid to dive into the every day work of the Commission. In a lot of ways telecommunications policy is often forgotten about, but I've delved into finding ways to improve our 911 system, service quality, fight against spoofing and much more in this field. One thing I'm most proud of is working to improve several of the telecommunications programs to help the disabled and low-income that were forgotten and needed a fresh look. I worked hard to build coalitions within state agencies and nonprofits to help bring about improvements to those programs.

Collaboration — When I first started in public service while in high school back in the 1980s volunteering for State Senator Bob Schmitz from Jordan Minnesota, it was a time when working across political divides to find common ground to get things done was the highest compliment. A collaborative get things done style is what I learned from my father who served on the local school board and my uncle Robert Tuma who served as a County Commissioner in our home county of Rice. Despite the pressures of these times I have held fast to this tried and true collaborative approach.

With that in mind, as we go through the major transition we are facing in the energy field it is important to have a Commission that is viewed as collaborative and not easily divided. I try hard to create a collaborative atmosphere with my fellow Commissioners and stakeholders. In particular, I cannot praise you enough for your first two appointments of Commissioners Means and Sullivan. I have enjoyed working with them and have worked hard to help them succeed by providing my institutional knowledge as much as I can. Chair Sieben and I have a solid working relationship and our visions for the Commission are strongly aligned. This positive working environment that I try to help foster with these wonderful colleagues is a big reason I would enjoy the opportunity to continue to serve.

Policy Alignment - As someone who has long worked in the policy arena and now serves in a position steeped in the energy transition I am very confident we have a very strong alignment regarding that transition here in our home state. As a Commissioner I am bound by the duty to uphold the law in this quasi-judicial institution where I must remain neutral and objective.

Nonetheless, the Commission has also been given broad legislative style duties in various areas. Therefore, my views on energy policy are important for you to understand in making the decision about my application. I can assure you that I hold the belief that Minnesota can and should succeed in meaningful decarbonization and create a stronger economy because of it. I believe for this to be truly successful it needs to be a collaborative bipartisan effort.

My Republican credentials are strong with the work I've done as a 4 term Republican legislator, as a lobbyist who has championed conservative initiatives in the area of education and my long continued involvement in my local Republican Party, Therefore, I do maintain a unique position as a strong Republican who has not been afraid to work hard for a decarbonized clean energy future.

Your Administration has an historic opportunity to decarbonize our energy and transportation systems and build a strong Minnesota economy in the process. A big part of making this legacy a reality is the individuals you appoint to the Commission. I have a proven track record as a leader in the energy community and am proud to occupy a unique space as a Republican who unabashedly supports a decarbonized clean energy future. A future that is not only

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government will make your

built on a clean energy backbone but is also just and equitable for communities and workers. One that equitably shares the burdens and benefits of the clean energy transition. I strongly support the mission of the PUC within our regulatory compact between our state and regulated utilities and recognize that it is our responsibility as regulators to ensure universal access to utility services, and fair and reasonable rates in addition to this clean energy future.

I hope my experience, my collaborative approach and our policy aligned decision making will make it easier. Again, I truly would be honored and humbled by your trust in me to serve the people of Minnesota for another 6 years on the Commission and I promise if I am given 110% to make Minnesota's energy transition a reality.

Please let me know if you need any additional information. Thank you for your consideration. President of the Senate

Sincerely,

John A. Tuma

John Tuma

Northfield, Minnesota

612-991-1093 — jtuma@charter.net

EXPERIENCE:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 2015-Present

- Cyber Security - served as the lead commissioner regularly meeting with utilities on cyber preparedness and organized Cyber Summit bringing key government and the utility individuals together to strategize the protection of our critical infrastructure.
- **Siting and Routing Rule Change** - served as lead commissioner on a major rewrite of the Commission's rules; active leader in improving the permitting of critical renewable projects.
- Greater Minnesota Meetings - led the effort to bring Commission meetings to greater Minnesota on a regular basis.
- Southwest Minnesota Transmission Summit - was a driving force behind the effort to help Minnesota counties in the Southwest prepare for significant regional transmission planning now occurring at MISO.
- North Minneapolis Solar and Microgrid - served as a team member through the Rocky Mountain Institute's E-Lab Accelerator and the Energy Transition Lab at the University of Minnesota helping design an innovative 1 MW solar project on the roof of North High School and community microgrid for a low-income neighborhood.
- TAM and TAP Reform - led an effort within the Commission and with its public and private partners to reform telecommunications access for the low income and disabled.
- Agency Budget Process - led the effort to improve the transparency and functionality for the agency's budget.
- New Executive Secretary - played an active role in transition to a new leadership team at the Commission.

Government Relations 2002-2015

- Representing major clients before the state legislature, the governor's office, state agencies and Congress in the areas of county government, environmental protection, commerce and judiciary.
- Clients in the past have included Conservation Minnesota - a statewide organization dedicated to protecting the great outdoors; Metropolitan Inter County Association — an association including some of the state's larger counties; Minnesota Environmental Partnership - a coalition of over 90 of the state's leading environmental organizations; the Minnesota County Attorneys Association; the Survivors Network of Minnesota - an organization of survivors of sexual abuse; Association of Minnesota Counties; the Minnesota Independent Auto Glass Association (MIAGA); Minnesota Hearing Health Care Providers; and the Minnesota Association of Christian Home Educators (MACHE).

Minnesota House of Representatives 1995 -2002

State Representative District 25A representing parts of Rice, LeSueur, Scott and Dakota Counties, which include the communities of Northfield, New Prague, Montgomery, Lonsdale and LeCenter.

- Served as Chairman of the Crime Prevention Committee and Vice Chair of the Local Government Committee.
- Active member of Environment Policy, Judiciary Finance, Higher Education Finance, and Rules and Legislative Administration committees.

- Awarded Legislator of the Year by ARC of Minnesota, the state's largest disability organization; PACER, an organization defending the rights of the in education; Minnesota League of Conservation mesota); and the Women's Auxiliary of the VFW.

Voters (NKA Conservation Min disabled
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Attorney 1988- 2015

- Working in the areas of Worker's Compensation representing injured workers, Criminal Law/Real Estate/ Business Organization and Litigation, Special Education Law and Personal Injury Litigation.
- Managing Attorney for the partnership of Tuma and Thompson LLC from 1994 to 2001. This was a partnership with former State Senator Dave Thompson. President of the Senate

EDUCATION:

- University of Minnesota J, D 1988
- Mankato State University B.S. 1985 Summa Cum Laude - Major in Political Science with an emphasis in public administration and Minor in Economics

REFERENCES - Available upon request

Search Public Officials Reporting

Q

Statement of economic interest for a public official

Official: Tuma, John

Login to Follow (<https://logon.cfb.mn.gov/sso/login?returnTo=https://cfb.mn.gov/reports-and-data/officialsfinancial-disclosure/official/2965>) ➔

Statement last updated: 1/3/2021

Occupation: Public Utilities Commissioner
 Employer: Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place E, # 350
 St Paul, MN 55101

Positions held

Agency	Position held	Appointment date	Appointment ends	Appointment authority
Public Utilities Commission	Commissioner	2/2/2015	1/4/2021	Governor

Sources of income

None reported

Business or professional activity categories

None reported

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Securities

None reported

President of the Senate

Real property

County Address or section information

Owner Mortgagee Contract for deed Option to buy \$2500 rule

Rice 2495 Union Lake Trail



Pari-mutuel horse racing interests

None reported