



**CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA**

January 11, 2023

Chair Frentz and Members of the Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee,

We write today to ask for your support for the confirmation of Matt Schuerger to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

At Conservation Minnesota, we represent members from every county in our state, bringing their voices to St. Paul in support of robust clean energy policy. Alongside a dedicated community of energy advocates, we've worked to promote legislation such as the Next Generation Energy Act, the Energy Conservation and Optimization Act, and this session's 100% Clean Energy by 2040 bill. But while we're proud of our advocacy, we know that the job doesn't end when bills are passed. Effective energy policy relies on effective energy regulation. That's why it's important to confirm passionate, qualified commissioners like Matt Schuerger to our Public Utilities Commission.

Matt Schuerger provides a vital perspective on the Public Utilities Commission, as the only member with a background in power systems engineering. Holding degrees in both electrical and mechanical engineering, and having years of professional engineering experience, Schuerger brings invaluable technical expertise to the commission's decision making. For decades, Schuerger applied this expertise as a utility leader and consultant before becoming a regulator. With experience across the spectrum of energy generation *and* regulation, he is keenly aware of the realities and possibilities that dictate Minnesota's energy sector.

In addition, Commissioner Schuerger's extensive participation in regional and national energy bodies ensures that Minnesota is best served by advancements across the country, and that our state can best serve as a leader on effective energy regulation. Through work with the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council, and the Organization of MISO States, Schuerger has been uniquely positioned to help the Public Utilities Commission provide responsive, innovative regulatory guidance toward decarbonization and a just energy transition.

As the PUC continues to address pivotal dockets for our energy future, it's more important than ever to have an expert like Commissioner Schuerger. We urge you to support his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Paul Austin, Executive Director

Nels Paulsen, Policy Director

David Pelikan, Policy Associate

+1 (608) 469-5299

+1 (262) 685-7265

nels@conservationminnesota.org

david@conservationminnesota.org