



**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 John Tuma 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 appoint and confirm passionate, qualified commissioners like John Tuma to our Public Utilities Commission.

For decades, Commissioner Tuma has devoted himself to responsible energy and environmental governance. During his service in the Minnesota House of Representatives, our organization (then the Minnesota League of Conservation Voters) recognized Tuma with our "Legislator of the Year" award. And after leaving the Legislature, Tuma joined our organization as a government relations associate, spending a decade championing innovative, bipartisan legislation such as Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard. Throughout our partnership, Tuma proved himself to be a reliable leader, an avid learner, and a thoughtful teammate. Conservation Minnesota is proud to call him a friend and delighted to call him a commissioner.

On the Public Utilities Commission, Tuma has earned a reputation as a consummate public servant, approaching the position with a sense of fairness and impartiality, and an understanding for the potential of a decarbonized energy transition. He has demonstrated an ability to work across ideological differences, contributing to a culture of collaboration and progress at the Public Utilities Commission. Thanks to Tuma and his fellow commissioners, we believe that the PUC has become one of the country's most effective energy regulators. By confirming John Tuma, the Minnesota Senate can help ensure that the commission remains strong and that Minnesotans continue to benefit from responsible, ambitious leadership. We urge you to support his candidacy.

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