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Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
Minnesota State Senate
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

First, on behalf of Fresh Energy, I would like to thank this Committee for taking up the confirmations of appointed Public Utilities Commissioners: Chair, Katie Sieben, Matt Schuerger, John Tuma. For thirty years, Fresh Energy has been engaging at the Public Utilities Commission as a nonpartisan, not-for-profit voice for clean, reliable, and affordable energy. As you know, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is a critical decision-making body in state government when it comes to our energy sector. In recent years, Minnesota has been fortunate to have a Commission composed of individuals with varied expertise and strong dedication ensuring that our energy system works for everyone. Expediently confirming these appointed and well-qualified commissioners is good governing and in the public interest.

I am writing to express Fresh Energy's strong support for the confirmation of Chair Katie Sieben Commissioner Matt Schuerger, and Commissioner John Tuma. In her service as Commissioner and Chair in her first term, Chair Sieben has led the Commission with a staunch focus on the public interest. Chair Sieben has made sure all voices have time to present their views and are heard, while making sure the Commission is able to make important decisions. Chair Sieben's leadership has maintained Minnesota's leadership in the energy transition, while keeping affordability and reliability as absolute cornerstones.

In his previous term and since re-appointment, Commissioner Schuerger has delivered exemplary service for Minnesotans, with specific leadership on important and varied issues from modernizing Minnesota's distributed generation interconnection procedures and technical standards to providing regional leadership as chair of the Organization of MISO States. These examples demonstrate that Commissioner Schuerger's unique and relevant skillset as an electric power systems engineer is a major asset to Minnesota. He has dedicated himself to understanding technical and reliability issues raised by the energy transition and the path to decarbonizing the energy system.

Commissioner Tuma has been a steady, consistent voice on the Commission for utility fiscal accountability, defending the interests of utility ratepayers and Minnesota residents. Commissioner Tuma's background as an attorney and former legislator gives him deep insights into the intersection of public policy and regulatory oversight, and his contributions to the Commission's often complex proceedings consistently add elements of pragmatism and operational nuance that lead to better outcomes for Minnesota.

Fresh Energy strongly supports the confirmation of Chair Katie Sieben, Matt Schuerger, and John Tuma as Commissioners of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. If we can be of further assistance to the Committee on this subject, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Michael Noble