

January 10, 2023

Chair Frentz and members of the Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate 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 confirmations of Chair Katie Sieben, Commissioner John Tuma, and Commissioner Matt Schuerger to second terms 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.

During their first terms on the Commission, Chair Sieben and Commissioners Tuma and Schuerger have done their jobs thoughtfully and well, with careful consideration for the impacts of Commission decisions on ordinary Minnesotans. Under their leadership, the Commission has adopted innovative approaches to utility regulation that maximize the benefits of utility investments and services to Minnesotans, including nationally-recognized efforts to track and support local job creation. At the same time, the Commission has overseen historic investments in energy infrastructure that improved services while creating thousands of family-supporting jobs and opening new construction careers for Minnesotans.

The excellent work of Chair Sieben and Commissioners Tuma and Schuerger extends far beyond construction jobs. They have also played a key role in putting Minnesota on a path to meet carbon goals while protecting ratepayers, workers, and plant host communities. As Minnesota undergoes a challenging transition to a low-carbon economy, we will need their balanced perspective and steady hands to protect essential utility services and advance the public interest. We can't think of more qualified candidates to do the job, and urge Senators to act promptly on their confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Joel Smith  
President and Business Manager  
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota