



January 10, 2023

Senator Nick Frentz, Chair  
Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee  
3109 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Senate Energy, Environment:

On behalf of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, a federation of 1,000 local unions, I respectfully encourage you to vote in favor of Chair Katie Sieben’s reappointment to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Katie Sieben has been an advocate for working people and a close ally of organized labor in the six years she has served on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and in the fourteen years she was a legislator. The reappointment of Katie Sieben as Chair and Commissioner is critically important, and we strongly encourage you to vote for her confirmation out of committee and on the Senate floor.

Since Katie Sieben’s first election to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2002 and throughout her ten years of service in the State Senate, Katie was a friend and ally of labor. She developed lasting relationships with workers at industrial facilities in her legislative district, like Marathon refinery in St. Paul Park and 3M’s Cottage Grove plant. She worked closely with state employees, teachers, and construction workers on various bills and initiatives to improve working people’s communities.

Then as a commissioner, she has continued to listen to the concerns of our members. In meetings with labor representatives and in tours of energy facilities, she has listened to worker’s experiences working for the state’s regulated utility companies. By listening to the men and women who ensure the state has electricity and natural gas services, she has helped bring workers voices to the Commission’s decision making.

Chair Sieben’s leadership at the Commission has helped ensure that workers voices are heard in the state’s energy transition. She has demonstrated deep respect for the workers who have dedicated their lives to ensuring Minnesotans have critical energy and telecommunication services. We enthusiastically encourage members of the Senate to support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Bernie Burnham  
President

Brad Lehto  
Secretary-Treasurer