

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

LOCAL NO. 49, 49A, 49B, 49C, 49D, 49E, 49L  
MINNESOTA • NORTH DAKOTA • SOUTH DAKOTA

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Dear Senator Frentz and Members of the Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee:

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 (IUOE Local 49) represents more than 13,000 Operating Engineers and their families in Minnesota. Our members include heavy equipment operators and mechanics, along with stationary engineers and they perform construction and maintenance work on a wide array of energy infrastructure projects.

As a labor union with a significant presence in the energy sector, we regularly participate in Public Utilities Commission (PUC) proceedings that have an impact on the work that our members do. It is important to us that the PUC Commissioners have the experience, knowledge, and independent judgment to guide the state's ongoing energy transition in a way that ensures the system remains reliable and affordable. We also believe it is important that Commissioners understand the role of workers in the energy industry and value the importance of maintaining high labor standards.

We support the confirmation of Commissioner Ham because we believe he has the right background to step into the role successfully. With a significant number of open dockets and new items coming before the Commission, Commissioner Ham has the knowledge of the energy industry and regulatory compact to be effective right away. We also believe he understands and values the role of workers in the energy industry and the need to ensure it continues to be a source of good paying jobs for local workers.

We encourage members of the Committee to support the confirmation of Commissioner Ham.

Sincerely,

Jason George, Business Manager  
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49.