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The Honorable Nick Frentz Chair, Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee Minnesota Senate 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Frentz and Committee Members,

I write today to express Fresh Energy's strong support for the confirmation of Hwikwon Ham to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Minnesota's energy system is in a period of historic change. The threat of climate change combined with the ever-present need to ensure affordable and reliable energy for all makes it more critical than ever that the individuals and institutions entrusted with oversight of our energy system are equal to the task. Minnesotans depend on the Public Utilities Commission to balance these critical public interests, and on individual members of the Commission to be committed public servants who thoughtfully balance often complex public needs and benefits.

Mr. Ham has over twenty years of public service in the energy sector where he has advocated for Minnesotans' interests at the state, regional and national levels. In particular, Mr. Ham's deep expertise in wholesale electricity markets, the transmission system, and its role in the energy transition will help the Public Utilities Commission navigate many significant dockets it will consider in the coming years. Fresh Energy has had the opportunity to work with Mr. Ham both at the PUC and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), and we have been continually impressed by Mr. Ham's depth and breadth of expertise, and his dedication to public service.

Fresh Energy strongly supports the confirmation of Hwikwon Ham to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. We appreciate the committee's fast action on this well-qualified nominee and encourage members to contact us at any time if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely.

Dr. Brenda Cassellius Executive Director, Fresh Energy cassellius@fresh-energy.org