

February 13, 2024

Chair Frentz and members of the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee:

On behalf of the 29,000 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 confirmation of recently-appointed Commissioner Hwikwon Ham to 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.

Commissioner Ham is an economist with decades of experience analyzing energy regulatory issues for the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Commission, including a recent focus on transmission planning which will be critical to meet Minnesota's new clean energy goals while preserving affordability, reliability and economic progress. Just as important, however, we believe that Commissioner Ham shares our commitment to a just and well-planned energy transition that does not leave customers or workers behind.

As Minnesota undergoes what may be a challenging transition to lower-carbon energy, we believe that Commissioner Ham will bring critical expertise and a balanced perspective to questions that come before the Commission. We appreciate Commissioner Ham's willingness to serve in this role and urge committee members to recommend him for confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Joel Smith  
President and Business Manager  
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota