



February 26, 2025

RE: Audrey Partridge for Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission

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

Conservation Minnesota is a statewide clean energy and environmental advocacy organization with members in all of Minnesota's 87 counties. We support smart clean energy policy that will help Minnesota achieve our 100% carbon free energy by 2040 law. Relevant to the jurisdiction of this committee, Conservation Minnesota supports the appointment of commissioners at the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) who can help guide us to achieving our broad decarbonization goals, all while ensuring reliability and affordability. Audrey Partridge is a textbook fit for the PUC.

Conservation Minnesota had the pleasure of working with Ms. Partridge for many years during her time at the Center for Energy and Environment. Ms. Partridge is a true clean energy expert in every meaning of the term, and our experience together has shown her to be innovative and collaborative in solving Minnesota's most pressing clean energy challenges. Ms. Partridge knows that the clean energy transition will have meaningful impacts on many communities across the state. Whether decommissioning outdated generating plants, or connecting new transmission lines for new sources, Ms. Partridge's knowledge and experience will help all Minnesota communities benefit from the clean energy transition.

Most importantly for her new role at the PUC, Ms. Partridge knows that it's not just the arguments of the lawyers and lobbyists and advocates at the commission that matter. Ms. Partridge knows the most important person in the decisions the commission makes are regular Minnesotans. Ms. Partridge knows Minnesotans want reliable, affordable, and clean energy, and her leadership on the PUC will help deliver those results.

We respectfully ask that you support the appointment Audrey Partridge to the PUC.

Sincerely,

James Lehner
Policy Associate
james@conservationminnesota.org

Nels Paulsen
Policy Director
nels@conservationminnesota.org