

February 20, 2025

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

Senator Frentz and Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee Members:

I am writing to you today to convey my enthusiastic support for the confirmation of Commissioner Audrey Partridge to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). I have worked with Commissioner Partridge in her prior capacity as Policy Director for the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) and seen firsthand her encyclopedic knowledge of energy policy and deep commitment to low-income Minnesotans.

The PUC will play an integral role in the implementation of our State's 100% Carbon free transition by 2040. It will do so under its perennial charge to follow a dual mandate of prioritizing sustainability and taking into consideration customers' ability to pay when setting rates. What the State needs is a Commission comprised of deeply analytical minds, able to thoughtfully and responsibly oversee an energy transition that helps low-income Minnesotans.

To that end, we need commissioners with a deep understanding of the systems they are overseeing and the laws and regulations that govern them. Commissioner Partridge was a leading voice in the passage of recent Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) legislation that extended weatherization services to more low-income Minnesotans. She has been at the forefront of all major energy policy discussions in our State, from resource planning to workforce development. In short, she knows what she is talking about and is guided by the right priorities.

Thank you for your consideration of Commissioner Partridge's confirmation. You would do the State a great service in confirming someone so deeply fluent in the policy details of the matters now before the Commission.

Regards,

George W. F. Shardlow

George Shardlow, Executive Director
The Energy CENTS Coalition



e: george@energycents.org | m: 651-245-1644