



408 Saint Peter Street, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55102

PHONE 651 225 0878

EMAIL info@fresh-energy.org

WEBSITE fresh-energy.org

February 26, 2024

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 and Audrey Partridge 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.

Hwikwon 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, reasoned approach to complex issues, and his dedication to public service.

Audrey Partridge has deep public policy experience across a broad range of critical energy issues. Ms. Partridge's especially extensive experience working in the energy efficiency space, including deep involvement in the design and implementation of Minnesota's flagship Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) program will be a significant benefit to have represented on the Commission in the years ahead. Ms. Partridge also brings extensive background on utility regulation and gas system decarbonization, which will be a huge asset to the Commission and our state. Fresh Energy also has deep appreciation for Ms. Partridge's longstanding commitment to working with directly impacted stakeholders, including power plant host communities and utility workers. This collaborative approach will serve Minnesotans well in her new role on the Commission.

Fresh Energy strongly supports the confirmation of Hwikwon Ham and Audrey Partridge to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

We appreciate the committee's fast action on these well-qualified nominees and encourage members to contact us at any time if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Allen Gleckner
Chief Policy Officer, Fresh Energy
gleckner@fresh-energy.org