

February 25, 2025

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

On behalf of the 14,000 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 Commissioners Hwikwon Ham and Audrey Partridge 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.

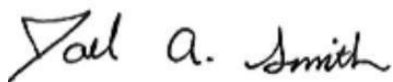
Commissioner Ham is an economist with decades of experience analyzing energy regulatory issues for the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Commission who shares our commitment to a just and well-planned energy transition that does not leave customers or workers behind. Since joining the Commission, Commissioner Ham has helped the Commission reach decisions to approve investments, programs and projects that will create jobs, control costs and support the development of next-generation energy resources by electric and gas utilities.

Commissioner Partridge is an energy expert who spent years helping the Commission to address pressing challenges that include scaling up energy efficiency, developing natural gas innovation plans, and ensuring just transitions for power plant host communities in her prior role at Center for Energy and Environment. Although she has only been on the job a couple of weeks, Commissioner Partridge has already made a significant contribution to the Commission's decision to approve an Xcel Energy resource plan that will create thousands of jobs and lock in thousands of megawatts of cost-effective generation.

As Minnesota undergoes what may be a challenging transition to lower-carbon energy, we believe that Commissioners Ham and Partridge will bring critical expertise and a balanced perspective to questions that come before the Commission. We appreciate their willingness to serve, and urge committee members to recommend both for confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Joel Smith  
President and Business Manager