



Minnesota Rural Electric Association

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February 25, 2025

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

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (“MREA”) respectfully submits this letter to express our strong support for the confirmation of Audrey Partridge to serve on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“MPUC”).

The MREA is the statewide association representing the interests of all 50 non-profit member-owned electric cooperatives in Minnesota. Our member cooperatives collectively serve approximately one-third of Minnesota’s electric demand and over 80% of the State’s geography. Although the MPUC’s regulatory authority applies primarily to investor-owned utilities, the MPUC’s authority still has a profound impact on cooperatives both directly and indirectly.

The MREA and our member cooperatives have worked with Commissioner Partridge in her successive roles as Manager and Director of Policy at Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). We have also observed her work involving other utilities at the MPUC over the years. As nonprofits serving high-cost areas of the State, cooperatives have had to focus extensively on developing nation-leading energy efficiency programs. Commissioner Partridge’s expertise in energy efficiency through her work at CEE gives her critical insight into the challenges faced by Minnesota’s cooperatives.

Based on our experience and observations, we consider Commissioner Partridge uniquely prepared and equipped to serve on the MPUC. She brings a highly analytical approach to the job – focused on facts and objective analysis. She asks probing questions and always seeks to fully understand an issue before forming an opinion. Importantly from MREA’s perspective, Commissioner Partridge has shown an understanding of the unique challenges faced by cooperatives as nonprofits seeking to ensure the delivery of essential electric service in rural Minnesota.

We urge the Senate to confirm the appointment of Audrey Partridge to serve on the MPUC. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darrick Moe  
CEO  
Minnesota Rural Electric Association