



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

As labor organizations representing 25,000 union construction workers and their families, we write to express our support for the confirmations of Commissioner Audrey Partridge and Commissioner Hwikwon Ham to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Our members build and maintain Minnesota's critical infrastructure across a wide array of sectors—including the energy sector. As such, we know how important it is to have Commissioners on the PUC who are experienced, knowledgeable, and understand the importance of meeting our state's policy goals while maintaining reliability and affordability.

We have had the opportunity to work directly with Commissioner Partridge during her previous role with the Center for Energy and Environment, both at the legislature and in front of the PUC. During that time, she led on the implementation of a number of important policy issues like the Natural Gas Innovation Act (NGIA), Energy Conservation and Optimization Act (ECO), and the natural gas resource planning process. She consistently brought a collaborative approach to this work seeking to find common ground amongst an array of stakeholders and willing to listen and consider different perspectives. Her subject matter expertise and incredible work ethic were consistently on display during these proceedings. We are confident that she will bring this approach to her work on the PUC in the coming years.

We have gotten to know Commissioner Ham over the past year through his service as a Commissioner. He brings an important independent perspective to the Commission that is informed by his training as an economist and decades of experience at the Department of Commerce. Commissioner Ham regularly opens up lines of inquiry during PUC proceedings on important but technical issues that often fly below the radar, contributing to better overall decisions.

In our view, both Commissioners Ham and Partridge understand the important role that workers play in our utility system. We are confident that with them on the PUC, the perspectives of local workers will be welcomed and considered. We urge your support for their confirmations.

Sincerely,

John Pollard, Political Director, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49

Richard Kolodziejewski, Public Affairs Director, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters