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To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
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Subject: Comments on MN Power Integrated Resource Plan - Docket #E015-RP-21-33
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TO: Members of the MN Public Utilities Commission

RE: Comments on the MN Power Integrated Resource Plan - Docket # E015-RP-21-33

The Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce has been at the table during this process and as their representative, I would like to say that the it has been one of the most complete and inclusive projects I have been involved with in the 21 years I have been the President of the Chamber organization. From the beginning MN power has made a stellar effort to include multiple voices and has documented them for review by the all of the participants on multiple occasions.

For us at the Chamber in Grand Rapids, MN, a key component of the process has been the discussion regarding the economic and social impacts of the planned retirement of the Clay Boswell facilities in Cohasset, MN. Our local and regional communities will experience direct negative impacts from this event and we will need a long run-way of time to develop solutions to lessen them. One thing that we have working for us is MN Powers understanding of the problem and their desire to assist and explore using newly developing technologies that will open new opportunities for these facilities in the future. The Boswell facilities have been a major part of our culture for many years and we, at the Chamber, have no intention of seeing them completely disappear with out exploring all possibilities for their continued operation as providers of clean reliable energy.

The region of NE MN is unique in that it is home to our States heavy industrial community which requires affordable energy to continue employing thousands of workers who live here and work in the mining and timber industries. No where else in the State of MN is the cost of energy so important as it is to the people that live in this region. We believe that MN Power understands this as well and we are confident that they will be able to continue to provide our industrial community and our citizens with electric power at competitive rates, if they are allowed the time and resources to do so. Not only do they need the time, they also need flexibility at the legislative level that provides the opportunity. We know that there are options other than coal for energy production. We also know that there are options other than wind and solar. Government and politics should not support or create barriers that limit opportunities. Instead, they should embrace those opportunities.

I hope that you find these comments valuable and I want to thank you for allowing me to share them with you.

Bud Stone, President
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