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Mr. Will Seuffert
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place E
Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 551501

Re: In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Boswell Solar Petition
Docket # 24-344
In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Regal Solar Petition
Docket # 24-343

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the City of Cohasset, MN, I am writing to express our strong support for Minnesota Power's Boswell Solar project in Cohasset, MN, as well as the Regal Solar project near Royalton, MN.

The City of Cohasset has long relied on the economic contributions of the Boswell Energy Center, which has been a cornerstone of our community's financial stability. Nearly 50% of the City of Cohasset's annual tax base, 7% of Itasca County's tax base, and 19% of the Grand Rapids School District tax base have been derived from this facility. As the energy transition progresses, it is imperative that steps are taken to mitigate the substantial economic impacts that come with this shift. While the Boswell Solar project represents a positive step toward addressing these challenges, it is only a small measure in replacing the revenue and economic activity historically provided by the Boswell Energy Center.

The Boswell Solar project will generate important local benefits, including job creation during construction and additional tax revenue that will help sustain the financial stability of the City of Cohasset. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that this project alone will not fully compensate for the loss of revenue and employment opportunities tied to the Boswell Energy Center. Significant additional efforts are needed from Minnesota Power, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and Minnesota's leadership to ensure long-term economic sustainability and quality of place within our community.

Furthermore, while the Regal Solar project near Royalton represents another meaningful investment in Minnesota's clean energy future, it is imperative that future initiatives prioritize economic development within coal impacted communities like Cohasset and their surrounding communities that have been directly impacted by the energy transition. We urge the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and Minnesota Power to continue their commitment to supporting

economic resilience in Cohasset through additional projects, investments, and initiatives that reinforce our community's financial health and workforce stability.

We respectfully request your approval of the Boswell and Regal Solar projects as part of this broader effort to secure a sustainable future for Minnesotans. However, we also emphasize the necessity for further action to address the substantial economic transition our community is facing. Your leadership and support will play a vital role in shaping a resilient and thriving future for Cohasset, Itasca County, and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh Casper', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Josh Casper
Mayor
City of Cohasset, MN