



MINNESOTA PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION

Affiliate of the United Association
Composed of Journeyman and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry
Of the United States and Canada
State Federation of Labor – A.F.L.-C.I.O.

Andrew Campeau, President
353 W 7th Street – Room 106
St. Paul MN 55102
(651) 291-5001

Jason Quiggin, Secy.-Treas.
353 W 7th Street – Room 106
St. Paul MN 55102
(651) 291-5001

Mr. Mike Bull
Acting Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2116

**Re: In the Matter of a Commission Evaluation of Changes to
Natural Gas Utility Regulatory and Policy Structures to Meet
State Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals
Docket No. G999/CI-21-565
REPLY COMMENTS**

Duluth-Detroit Lakes
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #11

Minneapolis-St. Cloud
Plumbers
Local #15

Minneapolis-St. Cloud
Pipefitters
Local #539

Minneapolis-St. Paul
Sprinkler Fitters
Local #417

Minneapolis
Gas Workers
Local #340

Moorhead
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #300

Rochester
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #6

St. Paul – Mankato
Plumbers
Local #34

St. Paul – Mankato
Pipefitters
Local #455

Virginia
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #589

Road Sprinkler Fitters
Central Region
Local #669

The Minnesota Pipe Trades Association is comprised of 11 Local Unions across the state representing over 10,000 members performing work in the Plumbing, Pipe Fitting, Sprinklerfitting, HVACR Service and Gas Workers industries. We provide industry leading benefits, wages and training for our members serving in these sectors. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this docket.

We recognize as a society we need to transition towards cleaner energy sources and support a commonsense approach to this. However, access to reliable natural gas as a resource needs to continue to be a part of this transition. We disagree with any reduction to line extension allowances.

We understand the question at hand in this docket is whether or not to preserve customer access to natural gas pipeline extension allowances. Any decisions and policy recommendations or changes directly affect our members and industries. We ask the commission to weigh our perspectives in any final decisions issued by the commission.

First off, we disagree with the stance that the Minnesota Legislature has provided direction or passed any legislation directing the Public Utilities Commission to limit line extension policies or access to natural gas.



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We agree with the comments submitted by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities and Housing First. The elimination of free footage allowance would increase the costs to build housing across the state. Further contributing to the housing shortage we are already facing. Any reduction to line extension policies would also decrease Minnesota's economic competitiveness.

As an organization representing members working in every sector of the construction industry. We understand the importance of access to cost effective energy infrastructure.

Counter to some claims that there is a decrease in opportunities in the natural gas industry our members perform work in. We are currently experiencing a worker shortage in these sectors. To date our membership numbers have never been higher and we are continuously looking to recruit individuals into these spaces to perform work for our signatory contractors and end users.

We take major issue with the stance that our members should shift careers and essentially start from square one to provide a living for them and their families. Our members spend countless hours training, honing their knowledge and skills in these industries the majority of them having completed 5 year apprenticeship programs to do so. Expecting them to set aside their skills and passion for the work they currently perform and learn a completely different career is offensive.

In closing we would like to affirm our opposition to any reduction to line extension policies. We would wholeheartedly support increasing allowances in line extension policies. It is our stance that an increase would reduce housing construction costs and make Minnesota more attractive for business development.

Andrew R. Campeau
President
Minnesota Pipe Trades Association