



"Advocate for a business environment in which our members can prosper"

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June 25, 2020

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 2015 Integrated Resource Plan  
**Docket No. E015/RP-15-690**  
In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Petition for Approval of the EnergyForward  
Resource Package  
**Docket No. E015/M-17-568**  
Minnesota Power's 2016 Rate Case  
**Docket No. E015/GR-16-664**

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing today on behalf of Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and as a participant in the stakeholder process for the Minnesota Power IRP, Baseload Retirement Study and Securitization Plan. We appreciate the opportunity to work collaboratively with other interested stakeholders in this important work and write in support of Minnesota Power's request for a six month extension.

As this IRP and the Baseload Retirement Study will evaluate the Boswell Energy Center, it is critical there is time to allow for the voices of our community to be heard and incorporated in this process. The Boswell Energy Center's role in our local economy and the vibrancy of our community can't be overstated.

A recent report from the Center for Energy and Environment on Minnesota's Power Plant Communities states: *"The Boswell Energy Center employs approximately 170 workers, 10% of whom reside in the city of Cohasset and 90% within Itasca County. Property taxes from the Boswell Energy Center make up almost 70% of Cohasset's annual city tax base, 13% of Itasca County's tax base, and 19% of the Grand Rapids School District tax base."* Decisions about Boswell that could shape our community's collective future for decades should not be rushed. We appreciate and support Minnesota Power's request to take the time necessary to have a robust stakeholder process that includes our perspective.

A six month extension will allow for a modified version of stakeholder engagement to continue that ensures the voices of stakeholders are heard while revising processes to incorporate the latest COVID-19 prevention guidance from the State of Minnesota. In addition, local stakeholders like the Chamber are currently prioritizing how to help our local businesses, local governments, and residents weather this storm. We do not have the time we had earlier in 2020 to devote to this important initiative at the moment and a six month extension that allows us to continue focusing on the challenges right in front of us would be appreciated.

Minnesota Power continues to be an excellent community partner and respected energy provider. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We are hopeful and look forward to your support.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bud Stone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bud Stone  
President