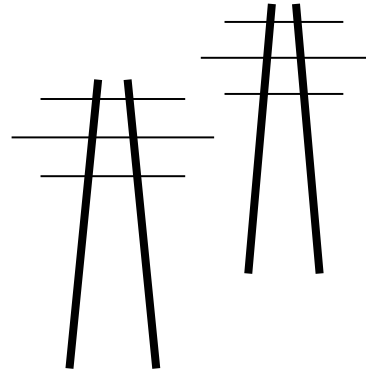


Legalelectric, Inc.

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July 15, 2026

Sasha Bergman
Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Commission
121 – 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

**RE: Data Centers and Tranche 2.1 Transmission
North Route Group & NO765KVMN**
PUC Docket E002, ET2, ET6675/CN-25-117 – PowerOn Midwest
PUC Docket ET3, E002/CN-25-121 – Gopher-Badger Link
PUC Docket E002/TL-26-135 – Skyway – Google Echo Zone Transmission
PUC Docket E-220/M-26-170 Xcel Electric Service Agreement
PUC Docket E015/CN-25-111 – Iron Range-St. Louis Co.-Arrowhead
PUC Docket E015/M-26-159 – Minnesota Power Electric Service Agreement

Dear Ms. Bergman:

Attached please find a December 10, 2024 letter from Tim Walz, the Governor of our Minnesota, and also the Governors of Michigan and Illinois, to the MISO Board of Directors, dated two days prior to the December 12, 2024 approval of MISO's Tranche 2.1 by the Board.

In representing Intervenors, participants, and/or commenting as an individual in the above dockets, I have been pointedly told that data centers were not a part of the MISO Tranche 2.1 planning, lectured that the presumption is simply wrong, that transmission planning has a long lead time and that data centers were not planned as MISO developed Tranche 2.1. Members of our groups, and individuals attending open houses and meetings, have been repeatedly told the same – that the Tranche 2.1 transmission expansion has nothing to do with data centers. We've remained skeptical.

The Governors' letter shows a connection, written before two of the data centers in Minnesota were announced and applied for, before Tranche 2.1 had been approved by MISO:

MISO's approach in developing a portfolio that seeks to optimize between transmission and generation investments to maintain reliability across MISO's

footprint is even more critical given the potential for long-term local growth from the reshoring of American manufacturing, the growth of electric vehicle adoption, and **the recent emergence of data center growth.**

Letter, p. 1, December 10, 2024, Attached (emphasis added).

Only three of the MISO states signed?

Coordination by data centers to align with transmission plans remains in question, but it's no accident the planned transmission is adjacent to planned data centers, or vice versa. Letters like the attached also have an extended timeline.

When did the planning for this letter acknowledging the tie to data centers begin? Inquiring minds want to know.

The geographic and electrical connections between data centers and transmission are visible, and pieces of the planning aspect are becoming apparent. What else are we missing?

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carol A. Overland".

Carol A. Overland
Attorney at Law

cc: North Route Group, c/o Suzanne Tomek
NO765MN c/o John Pugleasa



December 10, 2024

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), Inc.
701 City Center Drive
Carmel, IN 46032

MISO Board of Directors:

Mr. John Bear, Ms. Phyllis Currie, Mr. Trip Doggett, Mr. Mark Johnson, Ms. Barbara Krumsiek, Ms. Nancy Lange, Mr. Jeff Lemmer, Mr. Robert Lurie, Mr. Todd Raba, and Ms. Theresa Wise

RE: Support of MISO's Long Range Transmission Planning Tranche 2.1 that will enable expanded economic opportunity, improve reliability, and lower energy costs

Chair Raba and the MISO Board of Directors,

The states of Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota write to express our support for MISO's Long Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) [Tranche 2.1 portfolio](#) that includes transmission investments that will enable economic development, enhance energy reliability, bolster grid resiliency, and lower energy costs for our constituents. We strongly encourage the MISO board to approve this capital plan.

For years, we have advocated for MISO to take a long-term view in resource planning and to engage states and diverse stakeholders on the development of a robust and long-range transmission system that ensures cost-effective, reliable power for our residents and businesses with the flexibility to accommodate a diverse resource mix. This work is more important than ever as the region works to grow our economies and prepare for load growth from data centers, advanced manufacturing, electric vehicles, and more. To this end, we applaud MISO's thoughtful and thorough process in developing Tranche 2.1 and the system reliability, resource flexibility, cost-effectiveness, and eye toward system optimization it offers.

As governors, we support efforts to enhance grid reliability in as cost-effective a manner as possible. Through events like Winter Storms Uri and Elliott and the 2019 polar vortex, we have seen firsthand the very real human and economic costs of grid outages. Arguments such as those put forward by the Independent Market Monitor that arbitrarily discount the reliability benefits developed through MISO's robust stakeholder process discount the value of grid reliability. Moreover, a narrow economic focus is no match for the comprehensive planning process MISO used to identify the appropriate long-range transmission needs against a range of possible futures.

MISO's approach in developing a portfolio that seeks to optimize between transmission and generation investments to maintain reliability across MISO's footprint is even more critical given the potential for long-term local growth from the reshoring of American manufacturing, the growth of electric vehicle adoption, and the recent emergence of data center growth.

Supporting Tranche 2.1 is crucial given the dynamic and often challenging nature of issues facing the grid due to the expansion of load, diversification of the generation fuel mix, and the impacts of climate change, including an increase in extreme weather events. The construction of the Tranche 2.1 portfolio will lower costs and enhance reliability and resource flexibility for residents and businesses across our region. We support MISO's robust LRTP process and look forward to engaging with MISO on future regional transmission planning efforts, including Tranche 2.2, interregional planning, and other issues needed to maintain reliability even as the energy transition continues to accelerate.

The Board should move to expeditiously approve Tranche 2.1 as a subsequent but critical step in this ongoing planning and transmission infrastructure development process.

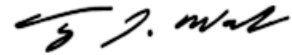
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JB Pritzker'.

JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gretchen Whitmer'.

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Walz'.

Tim Walz
Governor of Minnesota