

**LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota Comments on the Proposed
Three Waters Wind, LLC
PUC Docket Numbers: IP-7002/CN-19-154 and IP-7002/WS-19-576**

LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on the 201 MW Three Waters Wind, LLC, project in Jackson County, Minnesota.

LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota represents 12,000 unionized construction workers statewide including many workers in and around Jackson County, Minnesota. We believe that the proposed wind project can benefit both our members and the public at large by creating and sustaining high-quality construction and maintenance jobs. We have had positive experiences with the developer, Scout Clean Energy, and appreciate their attention to issues of concern to our members. We are hopeful that they will prioritize the use of skilled local workers to build the project.

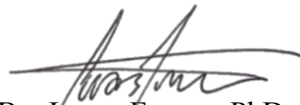
The creation of high-quality construction jobs is not the primary objective of energy policy in Minnesota, but it is an important factor to consider, especially in a rural area of Minnesota where the availability of family-supporting blue-collar jobs is very limited. We are aware of a number of recent renewable energy projects that have generated controversy by relying heavily on an out-of-state construction workforce and/or by creating low quality jobs. We estimate that the regional economy will miss out on \$5-6 million in total economic impact if only 10-30% of the workforce is local as opposed to 50-70% local workers.

Our members and other residents of communities in Southwest Minnesota are often left wondering why more attention hasn't been paid to how renewable energy project hiring decisions contribute – or don't contribute – to the sustainable development of their communities and the efficient use of renewable energy resources. They often hear promises of local workforce recruiting and hiring throughout the permitting process, but fail to see these commitments materialize over the course of a project.

In summary, we believe that the proposed project can benefit Minnesota construction workers and the public at large by creating and sustaining high-quality jobs. We believe that this can happen with the commitment of Scout Clean Energy to local hiring. LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota stands ready to help recruit and train locals to meet the growing demand for this and other wind energy projects.

Dated: February 28, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,
LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota



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