

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

Mr. Bull and members of the Public Utilities Commission,

We, the undersigned, are union construction laborers affiliated with Laborers' Union Locals 1091 and 1097, and we want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the proposed sale of ALLETE and Minnesota Power to private infrastructure investors. Many of us have attended hearings on other topics before the Public Utilities Commission, and we appreciate your efforts to make their process open to the public and not just to groups that can afford to hire lawyers and experts. We understand that the insulting way Administrative Law Judge Megan J. McKenzie wrote about our members in her report is not the way the Commission wants to do business.

More than 50 union laborers attended at least one of the public hearings on the ALLETE sale, because what happens to Minnesota Power affects all of us, whether we work on Minnesota Power projects, work on projects for their large industrial customers, get our power from the utility, or some combination of the three. We have taken time to listen to both sides, and we think the only way Minnesota Power can achieve the historic milestones of Minnesota's Carbon Free law is with the help of companies like GIP and CPP that will invest in our success.

GIP and CPP can provide the capital necessary to extend existing infrastructure, build new solar and wind projects, and reduce the carbon output which is an immense benefit to our region – not only in reliability and local economics, but environmentally as well. By creating new renewable energy sources like the Boswell and Regal solar projects, Minnesota Power will continue to diversify its energy creation portfolio, further helping their already impressive record in providing reliable power.

A number of us shared our support for the sale at the hearings, because we thought Judge McKenzie cared what we had to say. We didn't realize until her report came out that the judge had no respect for us or our thoughts. Right at the beginning of her report on the public hearings, Judge McKenzie lumps all of the supporters together and basically calls us puppets, saying that we just repeated company talking points and that supporters "feel obligated to support Minnesota Power due to the financial support they are provided by the company".

Judge McKenzie isn't just being disrespectful, she also has no idea what she's talking about, at least when it comes to our members. None of us work for Minnesota Power, and even if we did, they wouldn't get to tell us what to say because one nice thing about being a union member is your rights are protected including the right to free speech. We weren't paid or told to attend the

hearing by our employers, we took time away from our lives and families because we thought it was important. But somehow, even though we were at a hearing listening to all the arguments and making our own, Judge McKenzie decided we were too ignorant or stupid to know what's good for us, so she just wrote us off in her report.

Since the Commission didn't get the straight story from Judge McKenzie, we want you to hear it from us: the ALLETE sale is a good deal not just for us but for everyone who lives in Northern Minnesota. Since the hearings, we know that GIP and CPP have made even more commitments that make the deal even better. They have agreed to delay rate increases and take a lower return to show they are committed to affordability, and will give relief to customers behind on their bills. GIP and CPP have even promised to put \$50 million of their own money into new carbon-free technologies.

We hope the Commission will approve the sale and tell the judges in future hearings that it's not OK for them to insinuate that citizens who show up to public hearings are in the pocket of someone just because they don't agree with them.

Ben Thraenert- Eveleth, MN
Harry Homer- Ely, MN
Ryan Loney- International Falls
Josh Maio- Hibbing, MN
Les Oberg- Cass Lake, MN
Kyle Lundberg, Bovey, MN
Paul Colby- South Range, WI
Tina Miller- Calumet, MN
Brian Hauer- Squaw Lake, MN
Patrick O'Connell - Chisholm

Joe Schaffer- Virginia, MN
Abe Little- International Falls, MN
Luke Huotari- Grand Rapids, MN
John Taft- Nashwauk, MN
William Campbell- Grand Rapids, MN
Aaron Jarva- Bovey, MN
Mike Wilson- Cohasset, MN
Sean Miller- Calumet, MN
Doug Oothoudt- Cohasset, MN

Luke Eastlick- Duluth, MN
Douglas St. Germain- Cloquet, MN
Lucas Reynolds- Cloquet, MN
Nick Bullock- Superior, WI
Jason Haydon- Superior, WI
Gerald Osgan- Superior, WI
Robert Gotchie- Esko, MN
Adam Meyers- Cloquet, MN
Sandra Merritt- Duluth, MN
Paul Jones- Two Harbors, MN
Melissa Greensky- Cloquet, MN
Derek Pederson- Proctor, MN

Laura Kleive- Two Harbors, MN
Nicole Fairbanks- Cloquet, MN
Marcia Salo- Duluth, MN
Gary Coone- Superior, WI
Tyrese Topping- South Range, WI
Mario Lozoya- Cloquet, MN
Nathan Ferrando- Superior, WI
Katie Bugg- Duluth, MN
Trey Merritt- Duluth, MN
James Lozoya- Wrenshall, MN
Adam Greensky- Duluth, MN
Zac Hanson- Hermantown, MN