

**Comments from Operating Engineers Local 49 and North Central States Regional Council
of Carpenters**

Sept 4, 2024

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

*In the Matter of the Application of Gopher State Solar LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 200
MW Gopher State Solar Project in Renville County, Minnesota (24-106)*

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this matter. We respectfully submit this letter supporting a finding of completeness for the Gopher State Solar project application.

Having reviewed the application submitted by Gopher State Solar we believe it meets all the criteria required by Minn. R. 7850.3100. We do not believe there are any contested issues of fact with respect to the representations made in this application at this time and we do not believe an advisory task force is warranted at this time.

We appreciate the applicant's inclusion of a preference in bidding for contractors that commit to utilizing local, construction craft employees to the greatest extent feasible. As the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is aware, it is important to ensure that projects like these provide good paying jobs for local construction workers. While there have been some initial conversations with Ranger Power, we look forward to further conversations with the project's parent company D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments to discuss how to maximize local benefits as the permitting process moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Nathan Runke, Regulatory and Political Affairs Coordinator, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49

Richard Kolodziejski, Public Affairs Director, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters