

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

August 4, 2025

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

Re: Letter of Support – Docket No. PA-24-198 – Acquisition of ALLETE by Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Global Infrastructure Partners

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 and the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, which represent over 25,000 members across Minnesota, we fully support the Settlement between the Department of Commerce, ALLETE/Minnesota Power, Global Infrastructure Partners and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (DOC Settlement).

We believe that the DOC Settlement and acquisition represent significant benefits for Minnesota workers, customers, and local communities, particularly in terms of job security, investment in local infrastructure, and workforce stability. Our unions concur with the Department of Commerce and other parties who reviewed the transaction to ensure continued secure investment, sustained affordable energy, and assistance with driving clean energy initiatives.

The buyers, CPP Investments and GIP, have publicly committed to honoring existing workforce agreements, keeping ALLETE locally managed, maintaining high labor standards, and collaborating on future infrastructure needs to support both reliability and decarbonization. This commitment respects existing workforce agreements, maintains high labor standards, and works collaboratively to address Minnesota's future energy and infrastructure needs. Based on the direction the owners plan to take this acquisition, we anticipate positive impacts for jobs, workforce stability, and local surrounding communities. This deal will continue to uphold commitments to a union workforce, safe workplaces and investment in local infrastructure as Minnesota continues to pursue an ambitious clean energy and grid modernization goal.

This acquisition will also facilitate immediate savings and significant benefits to Minnesota Power's customers and communities. With the inclusion of a rate freeze and forgiveness program, it is consistent with the public interest according to the DOC and many stakeholders. Approval of the transaction is necessary to secure the capital and experienced ownership required for Minnesota Power to maintain its service commitments and support robust regional economic activity.

In summary, both the Carpenters and Operating Engineers Local 49 urge the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to reject the ALJ's recommendations and approve the DOC settlement, emphasizing the broader value to Minnesota's workforce, electric reliability, and affordability. We urge the PUC to approve the transaction as being in the public interest and beneficial for Minnesota workers and communities.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information.
Sincerely,

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

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