

From: [Mindy Granley](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Letter supporting Docket No. 20-828
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 10:29:52 AM
Attachments: [Support_DocketNo20-828Final.docx.pdf](#)

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Please accept the attached letter of support related to Docket No. 20-828, on behalf of the City of Duluth.

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Thursday, March 11, 2020

RE: Support for the PETITION OF MINNESOTA POWER FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ACQUISITION OF SOLAR POWER TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC RELIEF AND RECOVERY

In July of 2020, the City of Duluth showed support for Minnesota Power's proposed solar power economic recovery projects, including local solar in Duluth, in a letter to the Public Utilities Commission in Docket No. 20-492. We are excited that the project has continued to progress – and are writing to support Docket No. 20-828. The project has both environmental and regional and local economic benefits, as it intends to use locally-produced solar panels, encourage participation of a diverse set of suppliers, and create local jobs at a time when economic recovery is needed in our region.

On the environmental side, solar development in our City would also provide locally-produced, renewable energy which our residents desire, as seen in the Duluth Citizens Climate Action Plan. In January, we saw that Minnesota Power has met a 50% renewable milestone; this project would continue that success and enable them to meet their Solar Energy Standard obligations early.

On the economic side, Minnesota Power outlines how construction of solar projects would add an estimated \$10.2 Million to 2021 Gross Regional Product and boost employment in 2021 by about 73 jobs. While the majority of these immediate effects from construction fade after the construction timeframe, increased payments to local taxing authorities and increased purchases from local vendors for parts and maintenance provide low-level, long-term stimulus.

Thank you. On behalf of the City of Duluth,

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