



August 27, 2025

Mr. Mike Bull
Acting Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Suite 350
121- 7th Place East
St. Paul, MN 55101 - 2147

Dear Mr. Bull,

I write on behalf of Minnesota AFL-CIO to urge the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to approve the proposed sale of ALLETE to infrastructure investment funds managed by Global Infrastructure Partners and the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board. The Minnesota AFL-CIO represents 1,000 local unions, representing, 300,000 union members, including multiple thousands of men and women that live and work in Northeast Minnesota. ALLETE and Minnesota Power have played an important role in the lives of union households in Northeast Minnesota for generations — delivering reliable power, creating family-supporting jobs, and fostering economic development.

The unions most directly affected by the Commission's decision in this case — including International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 31 and unions affiliated with the Minnesota Building Trades — have taken a hard look and concluded that the sale is the best way to protect their members' interests in a healthy, well-functioning utility. The Minnesota AFL-CIO agrees. The modest and manageable risks associated with the proposed sale are far outweighed by the risks Northeast Minnesotans face if ALLETE is forced to go it alone. Additional commitments negotiated by Local 31, the Minnesota Department of Commerce and Energy Cents Coalition further ensure that the sale is consistent with the public interest.

Like other investor-owned utilities, Minnesota Power is subject to democratic oversight through the Commission, which limits the rates utilities charge and the profits they earn; requires them to operate in a transparent manner for the benefit of the public; and provides extensive opportunities for public participation in planning. None of these rules and requirements change if ownership of the utility changes from stockholders to infrastructure investors, whose funding comes largely from public and labor-management pension funds.

Comments submitted by the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council detail the danger to working people if Minnesota Power were forced to rely on third parties for power generation and other essential functions because the utility lacked access to affordable capital. The Minnesota AFL-CIO recognizes the critical importance of keeping control over critical infrastructure in the hands of regulated entities, and we are concerned that excessive reliance on unregulated third parties could compromise the integrity of the system, weaken democratic control and oversight, and undermine the economic and social gains that Minnesota Power has historically delivered.

The best way to prevent these harms and to protect the progress we have made is to ensure that Minnesota Power has the necessary resources to build the clean, reliable energy system we need. This is especially true at a time when we face economic uncertainty and almost daily attacks from the current administration on working people, and on Minnesota's plans for a just energy transition. We thank the Commission for its attention and ask you to approve the proposed transaction.

Sincerely,

Bernie Burnham
President

Brad Lehto
Secretary/Treasurer