

Comments from Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters

April 24, 2026

Ms Sasha Bergman
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Summit Lake Solar, LLC and Summit Lake Storage, LLC for a Solar Energy Generating System Site Permit and a Battery Energy Storage System Site Permit for the up to 200 MW Summit Lake Solar Facility and the up to 200 MW Battery Summit Lake Energy Storage System in Nobles County, Minnesota. PUC Docket Numbers: IP-7153/GS-25-89 and IP-7153/ESS-25-88, OAH Docket Number: 21-2500-41031

Dear Ms. Bergman,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding the site permit applications filed by Summit Lake Solar, LLC and Summit Lake Storage, LLC. The Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters (NMRCC) represents a trained and skilled construction workforce who build and maintain the state's infrastructure, including our energy infrastructure.

The NMRCC represents approximately 14,000 members throughout the state who perform responsible energy development across the Midwest and rely on this work to support their families. Summit Lake will provide good-paying construction jobs while strengthening the electric grid and delivering long-term economic value to Minnesota communities. Utility-scale solar and battery storage projects require skilled construction labor, and union carpenters are prepared to help build these facilities safely, efficiently, and to a high standard of quality.

We appreciated the opportunity to meet with and discuss the Summit Lake project with Geronimo. We appreciate the commitments made by the company to use the Building Trades National Maintenance Agreement to perform work. This agreement is designed to promote efficiency in all construction work including energy projects. It also provides for a peaceful settlement of craft labor disputes with recent arbitration decisions determining that work precedent on jobs cannot be determined unless all trades are present on a jobsite.

Geronimo has demonstrated their ability to successfully utilize local labor under the National Maintenance Agreement on recent projects like Apple River Solar (WI) – 100MW and Portage Solar (WI) – 250 MW. They completed these projects using all trades rather than choosing to cut specific trades out of the work using an agreement that is not nationally recognized by all building trades. In fact, they are getting ready to start Grant Solar in South Dakota and have all

required trades on site under the National Maintenance Agreement. Their job sites prioritize safety and adhere to requirements of statute and code.

Projects like Summit Lake are going to continue to advance the clean energy transition while supporting rural economies and creating opportunities for workers and contractors throughout the region.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to approve the requested site permits for the Summit Lake Solar Facility and the Summit Lake Energy Storage System. Thank you for your consideration of this important project and for your continued commitment to Minnesota's energy future.

Sincerely,

Richard Kolodziejski, Political Director, Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters

Marcus Raines, Business Representative, Renewable Energy Committee, Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters