



**LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota Comments on the Proposed
Byron Solar Project, LLC
PUC Docket Numbers: IP7041/CN-20-764**

LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on the up to 200 MW Byron Solar Project, LLC, in Olmsted and Dodge Counties, Minnesota.

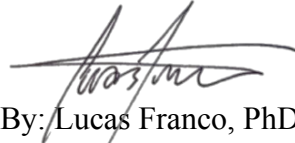
LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota represents 12,000 unionized construction workers statewide including many workers in and around Olmsted and Dodge Counties. We believe that this solar project has the potential to provide significant socio-economic benefits to the regional economy by creating and sustaining high-quality construction and maintenance jobs at a time when area construction workers are eager for work opportunities.

The creation of high-quality construction jobs is not the primary objective of energy policy in Minnesota, but it is an important factor to consider, especially in a rural area of Minnesota where the availability of family-supporting blue-collar jobs is very limited. We are aware of a number of recent renewable energy projects that have generated controversy by relying heavily on an out-of-state construction workforce and/or by creating low quality jobs. We are encouraged that this project will potentially chart a different path by prioritizing family-supporting job opportunities for local workers.

We support the request by Byron Solar Project, LLC, for exemptions from certain Certificate of Need data requirements as detailed in the project developer's October 12, 2020, filing. We believe the requested exemptions are reasonable and consistent with previously granted exemptions by the Commission to independent power producers.

Dated: November 6, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,
LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota



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