

March 14, 2021

Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
MN Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

RE: Docket No. is 20-828.

Mr. Seuffert,

I am writing today on behalf of the Cass County Economic Development Corporation, the leading entity for job creation, technical assistance to businesses, and economic development in Cass County, Minnesota. Recently we have engaged with Minnesota Power regarding a 10-megawatt solar, estimated \$20 million dollar investment, proposed to be installed in Sylvan Township of Cass County.

Job development and project expenditures focused on rural markets are critical for outstate Minnesota economies at any time. The importance is multiplied as we consider how our area recovers from the Covid-19 economic crisis. The positive impact on the local tax base, the numerous construction jobs created, and the opportunity for regional manufacturers and skilled specialists to work this project has net positive repercussions for Cass County that can last years.

The Cass County Economic Development Corporation supports the Minnesota Power Sylvan solar development and appreciates Minnesota Power's localized approach. The locally-centralized process maximizes the positive economic impact of this development and proves Minnesota Power is a partner in the creation of strong rural economies.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Paulus

Mike Paulus
Executive Director
Cass County Economic Development Corporation
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