



March 15th, 2021
Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
MN Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

RE: Docket No. 20-828.

Dear Mr. Seuffert and Commissioners:

I am writing today on behalf of the Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) to support the 10MW solar project being proposed in Sylvan Township. R5DC engages with counties, cities, and townships to advance their community and economic vision as well as their energy and environmental priorities, and I believe this project will bring benefit to our local communities.

This \$20 million investment from Minnesota Power will provide local jobs, local energy, and a local tax revenue of about \$375,000 over 15 years at a time in the COVID-19 pandemic when the economy is still suffering. We also are excited that Minnesota Power will be using Minnesota made Heliene panels as part of this project to support a local manufacturer. In addition to the local economic benefit of the project, the Sylvan project fits well within the Comprehensive Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS) in our region developed through and investment by the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. Solar energy projects have ranked high on the list of priorities for the last 6 years of our regional outreach.

Thank you for your consideration of this solar energy projects and the benefits it can bring our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Cheryal Lee Hills'.

Cheryal Lee Hills
Executive Director

Bridging Relationships & Resources

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R5DC is equal opportunity provider and employer.