

April 5, 2022

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101

Docket No. E002/M-20-891

Re: Letter of Support for the Sherco Solar Project

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to express our support for Minnesota's largest solar development to date, Xcel Energy's proposed Sherco Solar Project.

We support this project for several reasons:

- A solar project directly replacing coal generation from the Sherco plant is consistent with Minnesota's policy goals and is an important step in reducing carbon emissions to create a cleaner environment and healthier future for all.
- The project will help enable the energy transition with local well-paying jobs, training opportunities, and significant economic benefits offering critical support to the local economy after the retirement of the Sherco coal plant. The project offers an important career pathway for Sherco plant workers interested in transitioning to solar project development. The project also represents a unique opportunity to create new career pathways and diversify the utility workforce, particularly among women and people of color who are underrepresented in the utility industry and building trades, something that is of particular interest to our organization.
- In addition to the environmental and economic benefits the Sherco Solar Project provides, it is fiscally responsible. It would be the lowest cost solar resource on Xcel Energy's Upper Midwest system and at less than half the cost of the Community Solar Gardens program.

We ask the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to approve the Sherco Solar Project.

Sincerely,

Adair Mosley, President & CEO, Pillsbury United Communities

Kenzie O'Keefe, Head of Mobilization & Narrative Strategies, Pillsbury United Communities