



*Experience LIFE in the Park*

December 6, 2021

Mr. Will Seuffert  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

Re: Docket No. G-008/M-21-377

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

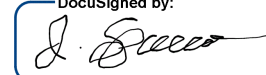
The City of St. Louis Park appreciates the opportunity to comment on the petition by CenterPoint Energy and the City of Minneapolis to introduce a Tariffed On-Bill (TOB) financing pilot program.

Like Minneapolis, St. Louis Park has an ambitious climate action plan with goals that cannot be achieved without piloting creative new initiatives. In order to meet our city's goals, 9,000 single-family households will need to complete retrofits/weatherization projects and 7,200 households will need to replace natural gas equipment with high efficiency models by 2030. A TOB pilot in the CenterPoint Energy territory would provide a much-needed additional tool to enable local homeowners and renters to invest in these energy upgrades.

St. Louis Park housing stock is almost 50% rental properties, a higher percentage than the rental rate of Hennepin County as a whole (38%). In St. Louis Park nearly 40% of renter households are considered cost burdened; low- and moderate-income tenants are increasingly paying more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities. Meanwhile, many small rental property owners face rising costs as well as financial pressures from COVID-19. The TOB pilot is an excellent way to weatherize homes, including and especially those occupied by low- and moderate-income renters and homeowners—and it is thoughtfully designed to reduce barriers to participation in traditional CIP programs, including the removal of income requirements or credit checks for program applicants.

We support CenterPoint Energy and the City of Minneapolis's leadership and look forward to promoting the pilot to our residents to save money; increase property values; improve resident health, safety and comfort; and bring our city closer to meeting its Climate Action Plan goals.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Jake Spano  
Mayor  
City of St. Louis Park

CC: City of St. Louis Park Environment and Sustainability Commission members