



Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. includes four business units –  
Greater Mankato Growth, Visit Mankato, City Center Partnership and GreenSeam

February 5, 2019

Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East; #350  
St. Paul MN 55101



Minnesota Public Utility Commission;

Xcel Energy has before you a request to approve the purchase of the natural gas Mankato Energy Center from Southern Company.

The Mankato plant currently provides power to area customers using a power purchase contract. By purchasing the plant, Xcel believes it can provide a level of certainty that energy will be available over the life of the plant compared to simply purchasing the output. That level of certainty is critical over time especially as power plants near retirement and transition to cleaner energy sources while supporting the unprecedented growth the region is experiencing.

Xcel has been a valuable partner within our community and with our local businesses. Its presence here has provided greater access and involvement in improving the region. Its leadership in shifting away from coal should be commended.

While Xcel currently has nearly 100 employees in the Mankato area, the purchase of the Mankato Energy Center enhances that presence and partnership with a rather substantial investment. We welcome the fact that this generator purchase will make it the largest gas operation in Xcel's portfolio – a feather in our area's cap.

We would encourage the Commission to approve this purchase.

Respectfully yours,

Jonathan G. Zierdt  
President & CEO  
GMG, Inc.