

**Comments on the Proposed Grand Meadow Wind Farm Repower Project
PUC Docket Numbers: IP6646/WS-07-839 (Site Permit)**

***In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for an Amendment to the Site Permit for the
Grand Meadow Wind Farm Repower Project in Mower County.***

LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on the up to 107.2 MW Grand Meadow Wind Farm Repower Project in Mower County, Minnesota.¹ LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota represent 12,000 unionized construction workers statewide including many workers in and around Mower County, Minnesota.

We believe this repower project will provide significant benefits to ratepayers, as well as to the regional economy by maximizing the use of local labor and utilizing skilled local tradesmen and women to build the project. We also believe that the project will help Xcel meet its carbon reduction goals and efficiently use existing interconnection rights, while minimizing risks associated with operations and decommissioning.

The creation of high-quality construction jobs is not the primary objective of energy policy in Minnesota, but it is an important factor to consider, especially in rural areas where access to family-supporting blue-collar jobs is very limited. These concerns are especially important in light of the widespread unemployment caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic. While we have made strong progress towards a recovery, Minnesota workers remain eager for family-supporting career opportunities.

Xcel's proposal to use local union labor for the Grand Meadow Wind Farm Repower Project will guarantee significant socioeconomic benefits to the region. This commitment maximizes the positive socio-economic benefits of this project.

Dated: August 3, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,
LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota

By: Lucas Franco, PhD
Research Manager
81 Little Canada Road
St. Paul, MN 55117
612-850-8755
lfranco@liunagroc.com

¹ We apologize if our comments are considered a late filing. The *Notice of Public Information Meeting and Comment Period* states that "written comments will be accepted through **Monday, August 3, 2021, by 4:30 p.m.**" While the listed day of the week is incorrect, we are assuming August 3rd is the written submission deadline.