



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854

RE: Docket 9698-CE-100

May 9, 2019

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing to express our support for the proposed Nemadji Trail Energy Center in Superior, Wisconsin. Not only will the project be an important generation resource for Dairyland Power Cooperative and Minnesota Power/ALLETE (South Shore Energy, LLC), but it will also help support the expansion of renewable energy, reduce dependency on higher emitting facilities, and provide much needed economic investment in Northwest Wisconsin.

Many of our constituents are members of local electric cooperatives who receive their energy from Dairyland Power Cooperative, such as Jackson Electric Cooperative, Oakdale Electric Cooperative, and Vernon Electric Cooperative. As the wholesale provider to these cooperatives, Dairyland Power has established itself as a proven partner to these cooperatives, their members, and our communities—bringing affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy to rural Wisconsin for almost 80 years. Partnering with their local electric co-ops, Dairyland power also supports economic development, community initiatives, and educational opportunities to people of all ages. Their investment in the Nemadji Trail Energy Center means that our constituents will be able to receive ever-increasing amounts of their energy from renewable resources. This is a priority for many of the citizens that we serve.

As legislators who represent rural areas, we know the value that a project like this will have to the local economies of the northwest corner of our state. Douglas County and the City of Superior are eager to host the Nemadji Trail Energy Center, but the benefits will extend across Wisconsin's local electric cooperatives' service areas and beyond to the entire mid-continent. In addition, we understand the preferred project site is nearly ideal for this type of facility. Nemadji Trail will have much lower emissions than a coal facility and overall will have minimal direct environmental impact. The preferred site is in an existing industrial area and has already passed state scrutiny for a similar project in the early 2000's.



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On behalf of the local electric cooperatives' and their members we represent in the Wisconsin State Legislature, we support the Nemadji Trail Energy Center proposed by Dairyland Power Cooperative and Minnesota Power/ALLETE in docket 9698-CE-100 and the corresponding applications for the supporting infrastructure. The project will support economic development, allow increasing renewables incorporation into the grid, has an ideal preferred site and will have minimal direct environmental impact. Finally, we know the project has had numerous public meetings and outreach events in the Superior area and has received overwhelming support from the community. For all of these reasons, we respectfully urge you to approve the applications and the project.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our thoughts during this process. Please do not hesitate to contact either of our offices, should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy VanderMeer".

Representative Nancy VanderMeer
70th Assembly District
(608) 266-8366

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Testin".

Senator Patrick Testin
24th Senate District
(608) 266-3123