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STATEMENT ON PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS

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"I believe Summer Strand and Tyler Huebner have two fundamentally different philosophies when it comes to their roles as Public Service Commissioners.

I have met with Commissioner Huebner for several hours on several different occasions. Although he appears to be a nice man, his answers to questions were completely lacking in substance. At times he was evasive, and at times he outright lied.

At least twice, he decided to ignore the law as Commissioner. He illegally authorized utility rates based on income, instead of usage, as required by law. He authorized a third-party solar arrangement in Stevens Point, despite a bill authorizing third-party solar arrangements being introduced and failing in the Legislature six or eight years in a row. Despite promising to recuse himself from decisions on which he had lobbied, he has not. He required utility companies provide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) information to the Public Service Commission without any authority to do so. The reasons to reject Commissioner Huebner are not political, they are about following the law. Huebner has failed to do so.

In complete contrast, Commissioner Strand has promised to follow the law. I spoke to her about these issues and more. Her answers were direct. She was straightforward. She criticized previous decisions and her reasoning for doing so. She is a Democrat, and I don't expect to agree with all, or any, of her decisions. But I am confident she will follow the law. Unlike Commissioner Huebner who has demonstrated he would not follow the law.