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**To: Wisconsin Legislature**

**From: Bill Skewes, Executive Director**

 **Wisconsin Utilities Association**

**Re: Support for AB 857/SB 615**

**Date: April 13, 2010**

On behalf of Wisconsin’s investor-owned energy providers, the Wisconsin Utilities Association (WUA) supports AB 857 and SB 615, its companion bill, and urges its swift passage through the Legislature.

As you may know, among other things, this bill clarifies the definition of “within the area” when making minor adjustments to the route of a transmission line which sometimes happens in order to accommodate landowner concerns, avoid wetlands, etc.

The bill(s) make it clear that “within the area” means within 60’ from the centerline of an existing transmission line, alleviating any ambiguity about whether a CPCN is required and its attendant alternate route provisions triggered.

AB 857, and its companion bill SB 615, clarifies that the centerline of a new high voltage line may not be more than 60 feet from the centerline of an existing line.

PSC supports this bill, which is co-authored by the chairs of the utility committees in both houses. Please support swift passage of AB 857 and SB 615.

Thank you for your attention to this important legislation.