WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

July 22, 2019

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
PO Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Request to Implement the Base with Asset Renewal Alternative (BWARA)

Chairperson Valcq and Commissioners:

Two weeks ago, hundreds of citizens from our legislative districts attended public hearings on the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line project (Docket No. 5-CE- 146). Lawmakers heard many diverse voices ask Commissioners to not only turn down the expansion transmission line for many reasons, but to choose cost-effective and community-serving solutions that are before the Commission to consider.

In 2017, we began encouraging the PSC to more thoroughly evaluate Non-Transmission Alternatives based on accelerated energy efficiency, more conservation emphasis and increasing use of home and local solar. In addition, we also joined together in submitting detailed language to make the evaluation standard PSC practice. We look forward to helping make those language improvements reality.

Throughout the development and review of Cardinal-Hickory Creek, the PSC has received unprecedented engagements of individuals, organizations and county and local government requests for increased ratepayer and land owner accountability. We were heartened to see the agency welcome a record number of municipalities, organizations and private citizens as full party intervenors in the case.

This past Spring, when we requested that the Commission asking that the economic performance of prior expansion transmission lines be conducted and placed into the record, the Commission immediately placed the request in topics to be evaluated in the agency's next Strategic Energy Assessment. We were unaware that PSC staff had conducted very careful, unbiased examinations of the economic claims made by Transmission builders for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek expansion proposal.

In keeping with this track record, we thank the PSC staff for conducting additional balanced, economic, reliability and environmental analysis and laying out the much needed picture of energy spending options before Wisconsin ratepayers.

In particular we want to stress our appreciation for laying a path involving optimized improvements to the 60 to 70 year-old transmission facilities approaching the end of their lifespans. At a cost of $900,000 compared to the CHC project at $67 million, the Base with

Asset Renewal Alternative (BWARA) developed by PSC staff appears to be a clear cost winner. Its design to rebuild three select lines, doubling their power handling abilities and addressing all the reliability issues while producing $19 million in potential energy cost savings would appear to be highly sound, foundational energy planning. Given the unprecedented, in-depth discussion about battery storage and solar support of transmission during the proceeding, BWARA's compatibility with increasing use of Non-Transmission Alternatives makes it a visionary solution as well.

We know the Commissioners will give serious consideration to BWARA in reviewing alternatives to the project while deliberating on their decision. Thank you for this opportunity to be an important part of this process.

Sincerely,

Sondy Pope
State Representative
80th Assembly District

Jon Erpenbach
State Senator
27th Senate District

Dave Considine
State Representative
81st Assembly District

Dianne Hesselbein
State Representative
79th Assembly District