

Commissioners,

I am Hudson Kingston appearing on behalf of CURE.

Thank you for allowing us to make an opening statement. This is an important matter for the Commission to take up as it regards the standards for co-ops and all member-owners who would like to take advantage of energy efficiency, energy storage, or even distributed generation. As such, we think that the Commission should choose **Decision Options 1 and 3** and initiate an investigation.

We do not believe that a contested case is necessary at this point. Instead we think that the Commission can proceed using **Decision Options 9, 6**, and the two more specific options from Commissioner Tuma: **6a and 6b**. By first consulting with TACE, the Commission can get a deeper understanding of how this is playing out with tribes, and can learn from TACE the ways to solve the problem without any material harm to Minnesota Valley or the Upper Sioux Community.

Upper Sioux has done everything by the book in this case, and it deserves the Commission's full attention and assistance in resolving this matter. We believe that there is a potential for a resolution here that serves the interests of both Minnesota Valley and its large member-owner, there is no reason that this dispute has to end with lasting financial harm to either party.

But first the Commission will have to set expectations and make it clear that Upper Sioux cannot be disconnected for doing something that is good for their members, their business, and their environment. Upper Sioux should be empowered to assert their energy sovereignty and renewable energy goals in coordination with the utilities that serve their lands.

Thank you for your attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.