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August 22, 2024

Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 280  
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Support for Princeton Public Utilities' *Strengthening the Reliability and Resiliency of Minnesota's Electric Grid* Application for Princeton Distribution Improvements (Phase II).

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter in support of Princeton Public Utilities (PPU) in their application for grant funding for *Princeton Distribution Improvements (Phase II)* that consists of voltage conversions and undergrounding of electrical equipment.

In 2021, PPU embarked on journey to develop a forward-looking capital improvement plan that would maintain, enhance, and improve, the local electric distribution system, which has a stellar reputation for being very reliable. The goals of the plan are to provide for continued electric reliability and allow for future growth and economic development while ensuring utility affordability for the most vulnerable members of our community.

The City and PPU have a long history of working together in a collaborative manner whether it is for day-to-day operations for in long-term strategic planning. PPU staff attends City meetings, meetings with potential developers and City Council meetings. PPU supports the City's efforts for continued economic development, residential growth and provides a PILOT payment to help fund those efforts. PPU is responsible for servicing all streetlights and fire hydrants within the City and is an active participant in many community events. PPU assists the City's first responders quickly and efficiently during any and all emergencies and participates in emergency preparedness planning and training.

Should this grant funding be awarded to PPU, the Princeton City Council is confident that the infrastructure upgrades will reduce member costs and enhance the energy services provided while maintaining safe and reliable electricity for our community. In a world where the interruption of services could quickly become catastrophic for our small community, we fully support these endeavors.

Sincerely,

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Thom Walker  
Mayor

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