



June 7, 2021

Mr. John Bear, Chief Executive Office
Mid-Continent Independent System Operator, Inc.
701 City Center Drive
Carmel, IN 46032

RE: Support for MISO’s Long-Range Transmission Planning Effort to Cost-Effectively Maintain System Reliability in the Face of a Changing Climate

Dear Mr. Bear:

Since taking office one of our highest priorities has been to ensure our States are prepared to address the urgent and immediate threats of climate change – as well as seize the economic and other benefits of addressing these challenges. We appreciate MISO’s ongoing work around the Long-Range Transmission Planning process.

The need for this work has only become more pressing. The events in Texas and across the South earlier this year were a tragic reminder of the consequences of not being adequately prepared for the realities of a changing climate, with communities of color and low-income residents often suffering most. Absent immediate action, these harmful effects will only intensify, lending real urgency to our work to maintain system-wide reliability while decarbonizing electric generation.

At the same time, customers, communities, utilities, and states are all demanding greater amounts of carbon-free generation. A growing list of leading companies – including companies based in each of our states like American Family, Dow Chemical, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Herman Miller, Kohler, Steelcase, Target, and Whirlpool, to name just a few – have announced aggressive carbon reduction targets. Many of our communities have also enacted bold climate goals. Our electric utilities are important partners in this effort: DTE Energy announced a goal to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 (with intermediate steps of a 50% reduction by 2030 and an 80% reduction by 2040), Consumers Energy set a goal of carbon neutrality by 2040, and Xcel Energy, Alliant Energy, and Minnesota Power set goals of 100% carbon-free electricity production by 2050.

State government is also actively engaged. Each of the below signed Governors have committed to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 26–28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. In addition, Illinois has a goal of 100% clean energy by

2050, Michigan has a goal of economy wide carbon neutrality by 2050, Minnesota has a goal to reduce GHG emissions 30% by 2025 and 80% by 2050, and Wisconsin has a goal of 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050.

Ensuring we have a grid that can accommodate the changes taking place in our electric sector is of critical importance, and will allow us to cost-effectively maintain the reliability of the system while making the transition to a decarbonized economy. Simply put, we cannot allow the transmission system to become a barrier to meeting our climate commitments, nor can we sacrifice system-level reliability as the number of extreme weather events driven by climate change continues to increase.

To that end, I am asking that MISO be a partner with each of us in these efforts. MISO's Long-Range Transmission Planning process is urgently needed to allow carbon-free and low-cost electricity to flow across the region – all while maintaining the reliability of the system on which we rely. To fully meet its potential, this effort must be transparent and encourage stakeholder input, optimize between transmission and non-transmission options (including electricity storage, energy efficiency, and demand response both in Michigan and across MISO's territory), and enable a “least regrets” approach to system planning.

We are counting on MISO to plan for the grid infrastructure we will need, and we stand ready to partner with you in meeting the challenges – and opportunities – demanded by the urgent realities of climate change.

Sincerely,



Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan



J.B. Pritzker
Governor of Illinois



Tim Walz
Governor of Minnesota



Tony Evers
Governor of Wisconsin

CC: Michigan Public Service Commission