

CITY OF CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION 2026-14 IN OPPOSITION TO THE GOPHER TO BADGER LINK TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

WHEREAS, Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, and Dairyland Power Cooperative (collectively, "Applicants") have filed a Joint Application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("MPUC") for a Certificate of Need (MPUC Docket No. 25-121 (CN) 20262-227902-02) for the Gopher to Badger Link Transmission Line Project ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Application states that the Project was approved by Midcontinent Independent System Operator Inc. (MISO) as part of its Long-Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Tranche 2.1 Portfolio; and

WHEREAS, the Project would build a 765-kilovolt (kV) AC transmission line across Houston County, Minnesota, approximately 4.7 miles south of the City of Caledonia, and cutting through rural townships and running adjacent to cities in the County, alongside and in addition to the currently existing 161-kV line; and

WHEREAS, the City of Caledonia is the county seat of Houston County and a hub of commerce, education and government, so that the residents, farms, and businesses of the townships and towns in the path of the proposed line are the City's customers, students, employees, and neighbors, and lasting harm in the surrounding County is lasting harm to the City itself; and

WHEREAS, the construction and permanent presence of a 765-kV transmission line will result in measurable reductions in property values for affected and adjacent landowners due to visual intrusion, limitations on land use within easements, loss of privacy and rural character, and safety risks; and

WHEREAS, reductions in assessed property values or changes in land classification associated with the proposed transmission corridor will lead to long-term loss of property tax revenue across Houston County, shifting the tax burden to other residents, including City of Caledonia taxpayers, and constraining local governments' ability to fund essential services and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Caledonia and Houston County lie within the Driftless Area, a region characterized by steep and fragile topography, karst geology, cold-water trout streams, productive agricultural lands, and landscapes that are unusually sensitive to disturbance from large-scale linear infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the State of Minnesota repealed Minn. Administrative Rule §7850.4100, regarding Factors Considered in determining whether to issue a permit for a high voltage transmission line, and which presents a comprehensive list of factors, beginning with "(A) effects on human settlement, including, but not limited to, displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation, and public services; (B) effects on public health and safety," etc; and

WHEREAS, under Minn. Stat. §216I.05, "When determining whether to issue a site permit for a large energy infrastructure facility, the commission must...[evaluate] research and investigations relating to: ... (i) effects on land, water and air resources; and (ii) the effects water and air discharges and electric and magnetic fields resulting from large energy infrastructure facilities have on public health and welfare, vegetation, animals, materials, and aesthetic values"; and

WHEREAS, the Applicants have not provided real-world, unbiased measurements of electric, magnetic, and sound discharges of 765-kV lines carrying full load capacity, and their effects on the surrounding people and environment; and

WHEREAS, a Technical Rebuttal and Notice of Material Facts in Dispute paper was resubmitted as a Public Comment on the Application 25-121, on March 2, 2026 (MPUC Docket No. 25-121 (CN) 20263-228808-01, by Dr. W. Ben Johnson), that references recent health studies that could significantly harm our County's residents; and

WHEREAS, the Project's proposed 765-kV overhead transmission line, and the source of the majority of the negative health, cost, and environmental impacts, passes through Houston County without servicing any local

electricity to our constituents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Caledonia receives electric service through Dairyland Power, via MiEnergy, and Dairyland Power customers will be responsible for bearing 1.3% of the total estimated \$979 million–\$1.273 billion Project Costs, as outlined in the Application (pgs 27-28), and therefore those costs will be passed on to the City of Caledonia's ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, MISO's economic savings calculations, provided in the Application (pgs 60, 102-103), remain in dispute by Independent Market Monitor (IMM) Potomac Economics, which argues the actual cost-benefit ratio to be significantly lower than calculated, as published in MISO IMM Comments on LRTP Tranche 2 Benefit Analysis, and therefore resulting in disputable cost-benefit for the City of Caledonia ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, MISO's IMM further points out that without LRTP Tranche 2.1, large energy users and generation points would move closer together: "[t]his is a major flaw because these siting changes would shift, reduce or eliminate many...benefits" that Tranche 2.1 claims for itself, thereby making a large 765-kV line unnecessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Caledonia refuses to allow our community to be subject to potential health hazards, and insists on real-world, unbiased measurements of the effects of a full load capacity from 765-kV transmission lines on humans, animals, and all life, and a comprehensive review of the health studies cited in Dr. Johnson's Technical Rebuttal and Notice of Material Facts in Dispute paper, prior to any approvals of Certificate of Need, or considerations of route; and

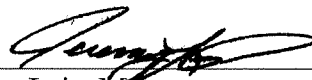
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Caledonia calls for the State of Minnesota to reinstate Minn. Administrative Rule §7850.4100, or introduce new legislation that requires placing our people, their health and livelihoods, as the weightiest and most important of cost considerations in large-scale infrastructure projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Caledonia calls for the MPUC to hold MISO accountable for the major flaws in their cost-benefit calculations, and which therefore makes this Application incomplete and faulty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Caledonia calls for regional electric grid projects that utilize alternatives to high-voltage overhead AC transmission lines, such as DC underground lines, and therefore fulfill our future needs without devastating and over-burdening our people, communities, and land; and

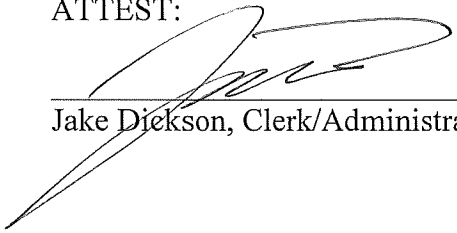
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Caledonia formally states its opposition to the Gopher to Badger Link Transmission Line Project, due to the unacceptable negative costs to the health and quality of life to our citizens and surrounding communities, and the lasting harm to our natural resources, property values, and way of life.

ADOPTED by the Caledonia City Council this 12th day of October, 2026.



Jeremy Leis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jake Diekson, Clerk/Administrator