

MINNESOTA  
CHAMBER of  
COMMERCE

September 15, 2006

The Honorable Steve M. Mihalchick  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
100 Washington Square, Suite 1700  
Minneapolis, MN 55401-2138

**LETTER IN SUPPORT OF XCEL  
ENERGY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE  
PROTECTIVE ORDER CONCERNING  
TRADE SECRET DESIGNATIONS**

Re: **In the Matter of a Petition by Excelsior Energy, Inc. for Approval of a Power Purchase Agreement Under Minn. Stat § 216B.1694, Determination of Least Cost Technology, and Establishment of a Clean Energy Technology Minimum Under Minn. Stat § 216B.1693. MPUC Docket No. E-6472/M-05-1993; OAH Docket No. 12-2500-17260-2.**

Dear Judge Mihalchick:

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our member companies that are Xcel Energy Customers, writes to you today in support of Xcel Energy's Motion to Enforce the Protective Order Concerning Trade Secret Designations.

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce has not signed the Protective Order, in part because of our desire to work with Excelsior to make more information public.

The Minnesota Chamber's position is that Excelsior Energy is asking the PUC to make a decision that will affect electric rates for millions of Minnesota customers, including many of our member companies.

Excelsior is in this position largely by virtue of laws it asked the Minnesota Legislature to pass. In other words, the company chose to make this a very public process from its inception. It is for this reason that we believe that as much of the information that can be released to the public, should be released to the public immediately so that ratepayers can understand the full cost and terms of the deal, *before* the Public Utilities Commission acts or before a Power Purchase Agreement is signed.

We hope you will approve Xcel Energy's Motion to Enforce the Terms of the Protective Order.

Sincerely,

  
William A. Biazar  
Senior Vice President

  
Michael A. Franklin  
Manager, Energy Policy

Cc: David Olson, President