



June 27, 2007

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Docket No. E-6472/M-05-1993

Dear Commissioners:

The Government Affairs Committee of the TwinWest Chamber of Commerce supports the timely addition of base load capacity, such as the Mesaba Energy Project, to meet the state's growing need for energy. TwinWest's 1,000 members represent a variety of businesses and industries, ranging from national and internationally renowned corporations and industrially driven manufacturers, to home-based businesses and companies involved in the service and professional sectors. The membership base is as varied as the issues impacting each of its businesses.

TwinWest would like to see the Public Utilities Commission actively ensure that the state continues to explore alternatives and is not over-relying on natural gas for power generation. The U.S. Department of Commerce has estimated that the nation lost 489,000 jobs per year from 2000-2004 due to natural gas prices. As this statistic illustrates, upward pressure on natural gas prices has a negative multiplier effect that ripples through the entire economy. Therefore, TwinWest would like to see the state rely less on natural gas for power generation.

Solid fuel, base load generation resources that reduce demand on diminishing North American natural gas supplies are appealing to TwinWest members. These power plants reduce upward pressure on natural gas prices and allow a greater percentage of our natural gas supplies to be used in industrial and residential uses that are more efficient than power generation.

To ensure that TwinWest businesses remain competitive, we encourage the Commission to take the appropriate steps to ensure that base load resources come online in a timely and cost-efficient manner that balances future energy needs with the price paid by ratepayers.

Sincerely,

Jason Flohrs
Director of Government Affairs
TwinWest Chamber of Commerce