



December 10, 2024

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), Inc.
701 City Center Drive
Carmel, IN 46032

MISO Board of Directors:

Mr. John Bear, Ms. Phyllis Currie, Mr. Trip Doggett, Mr. Mark Johnson, Ms. Barbara Krumsiek, Ms. Nancy Lange, Mr. Jeff Lemmer, Mr. Robert Lurie, Mr. Todd Raba, and Ms. Theresa Wise

RE: Support of MISO's Long Range Transmission Planning Tranche 2.1 that will enable expanded economic opportunity, improve reliability, and lower energy costs

Chair Raba and the MISO Board of Directors,

The states of Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota write to express our support for MISO's Long Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) [Tranche 2.1 portfolio](#) that includes transmission investments that will enable economic development, enhance energy reliability, bolster grid resiliency, and lower energy costs for our constituents. We strongly encourage the MISO board to approve this capital plan.

For years, we have advocated for MISO to take a long-term view in resource planning and to engage states and diverse stakeholders on the development of a robust and long-range transmission system that ensures cost-effective, reliable power for our residents and businesses with the flexibility to accommodate a diverse resource mix. This work is more important than ever as the region works to grow our economies and prepare for load growth from data centers, advanced manufacturing, electric vehicles, and more. To this end, we applaud MISO's thoughtful and thorough process in developing Tranche 2.1 and the system reliability, resource flexibility, cost-effectiveness, and eye toward system optimization it offers.

As governors, we support efforts to enhance grid reliability in as cost-effective a manner as possible. Through events like Winter Storms Uri and Elliott and the 2019 polar vortex, we have seen firsthand the very real human and economic costs of grid outages. Arguments such as those put forward by the Independent Market Monitor that arbitrarily discount the reliability benefits developed through MISO's robust stakeholder process discount the value of grid reliability. Moreover, a narrow economic focus is no match for the comprehensive planning process MISO used to identify the appropriate long-range transmission needs against a range of possible futures. MISO's approach in developing a portfolio that seeks to optimize between transmission and generation investments to maintain reliability across MISO's footprint is even more critical given the potential for long-term local growth from the reshoring of American manufacturing, the growth of electric vehicle adoption, and the recent emergence of data center growth.

Supporting Tranche 2.1 is crucial given the dynamic and often challenging nature of issues facing the grid due to the expansion of load, diversification of the generation fuel mix, and the impacts of climate change, including an increase in extreme weather events. The construction of the Tranche 2.1 portfolio will lower costs and enhance reliability and resource flexibility for residents and businesses across our region. We support MISO's robust LRTP process and look forward to engaging with MISO on future regional transmission planning efforts, including Tranche 2.2, interregional planning, and other issues needed to maintain reliability even as the energy transition continues to accelerate.

The Board should move to expeditiously approve Tranche 2.1 as a subsequent but critical step in this ongoing planning and transmission infrastructure development process.

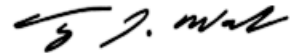
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker".

JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Walz".

Tim Walz
Governor of Minnesota