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CONNECTING COMMUNITY - CULTIVATING COMMERCE

September 16, 2026

RE: Sauk Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Opposition to Proposed BECI 765 kV Transmission Line

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Sauk Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce and our members, we are writing to express our opposition to the proposed BECI 765 kV transmission line and its potential routing through Sauk County and the greater Sauk Prairie region.

The Sauk Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce represents businesses, organizations, and community partners throughout our area. Our mission includes supporting a strong local economy while promoting Sauk Prairie as a desirable place to live, work, visit, and do business. After reviewing the potential scope of this project and considering its possible effects on our communities, we have significant concerns about the impact a transmission line of this magnitude could have on our region.

Our concerns include the potential impacts on **local businesses, agriculture, tourism, property owners, economic development, and the natural and scenic resources that are integral to the identity and economy of Sauk Prairie and Sauk County.**

The Sauk Prairie area has worked for decades to thoughtfully balance economic growth with the preservation of the landscapes, agricultural lands, recreational resources, and quality of life that make this region unique. These assets are not only important to our residents—they play an important role in attracting visitors, businesses, employees, entrepreneurs, and future investment to our communities.

We are particularly concerned about the potential long-term effects that large-scale transmission infrastructure could have on rural and agricultural properties, scenic viewsheds, tourism and outdoor recreation, property values, and future development opportunities.

We also believe a project of this scale requires a thorough, transparent, and deliberate review process that gives affected landowners, businesses, municipalities, and community organizations meaningful opportunities to understand proposed routes and impacts and to have their concerns considered before decisions are made. **Utilization of existing major utility and transportation corridors should be prioritized. The proposed alternative routes through Sauk County, the Sauk Prairie region, and other areas of the State present blatant disregard for such considerations.**

The Chamber recognizes the importance of reliable energy infrastructure and responsible long-term planning for Wisconsin's energy needs. However, infrastructure decisions must also carefully consider the economic, environmental, and community consequences for the areas being asked to host them.

For these reasons, the **Sauk Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors opposes the proposed BECI 765 kV transmission line and any route that would negatively impact Sauk Prairie, Sauk County, our businesses, agricultural community, tourism economy, property owners, and natural resources.**

We respectfully ask project developers, state regulators, and elected officials to carefully consider the concerns of the property owners, residents, communities, and businesses that would bear the long-term impacts of this project and to pursue alternatives that protect the economic vitality and quality of life of our region.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daryl Matzke", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Daryl Matzke, President
SAUK PRAIRIE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS