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*Ashland Bayfield Counties*  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

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PO Box 175  
Ashland, WI 54806  
July 20, 2022

USDA Rural Development  
Rural Utility Services  
[NemadjiTrailEnergyCenterProject@usda.gov](mailto:NemadjiTrailEnergyCenterProject@usda.gov)

Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for  
Nemadji Trail Energy Center (NTEC), Superior, Wisconsin

Gentlepeople:

The League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties appreciates this opportunity to comment on the above-referenced SEA. The League has, for decades, advocated for energy efficiency improvements and shifting to renewable energy. We have opposed the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure which threatens to increase the world's dependence on dirty fuels and increase the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Preservation of a healthy environment is a top priority.

This proposed natural gas plant would not be a clean source of electricity, and we strongly believe that the proposed loan should not be granted. We question the justification for constructing the proposed NTEC facility, given the recent proliferation of renewable energy sources in this part of the state. Indeed, Northwest Wisconsin has seen a dramatic increase in solar energy installations in the past several years, and with the trend continuing, it is entirely possible that the NTEC plant would be an obsolete and unneeded dinosaur not long after it goes online.

While the SEA indicates that the NTEC facility would reduce reliance on coal-based energy production, this claim, and the SEA in general, fail to recognize the much greater reductions in emissions that can be achieved with energy efficiency improvements and renewables like solar energy. We will not need another fossil fuel plant five years from now (when NTEC would go into service) to "transition" to renewables. We are ready and able to switch to renewables now. We are coming to realize, as we face more than one global crisis, that it is time to leave all fossil fuels behind. Plants like this one, which will

cost ratepayers millions while adversely impacting the local environment and contributing to climate change, have no place in the new economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kate" and last name "Miller" clearly distinguishable.

Kate Miller

On behalf of the Board of Directors,  
League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties  
[president@abcleaguevoters.org](mailto:president@abcleaguevoters.org)