From: Thatcher Imboden
To: Storm, Bill (COMM);
Subject: Midtown Greenway High Voltage Power Lines
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2010 9:29:16 AM

Mr. Storm,

I'm writing to you regarding the proposed Midtown Greenway High Voltage Power Line project. I am opposed to aerial high voltage wires in or adjacent the Midtown Greenway because it will have a negative impact on the ability of the corridor to accommodate significant growth because of the unattractiveness of the wires and concerns that potential employers and residents will have about health impacts, whether justified or perceived.

The Midtown Greenway corridor has changed significantly over time, going from an at-grade rail corridor with some industry to a depressed rail corridor with heavy industry, to an industrial corridor with less intensive uses, to now a recreational corridor with a mix of institutional, residential, industrial, and commercial uses. The vision for the corridor is to intensify the land uses and in many cases that intensity will come from increased housing facing the Greenway.

Clearly, there are many in the community that feel that there is a real power need within the corridor. I appreciate the willingness of Xcel to address the power need issues of today and tomorrow. However, by picking an aerial high voltage power line option in or adjacent the Greenway, there will be considerable damage done to the future economic growth of the area.

As a real estate professional, I have had the opportunity to learn a lot about the feasibility of development projects and of tenant wants and desires. The addition of tall poles and wires will make the area less attractive and create health concern by some employers, renters, or buyers. This will reduce the pool of potential buyers and renters, which ultimately makes the development more difficult to move from feasibility to reality.

As a business leader, I know our community wants economic growth to

support the existing businesses and to grow the market place. Whether its restaurants wanting more residents and employees to patronize their business, or a marketing company wanting more traditional office users to move in to increase their opportunities, businesses in the area want and need growth to occur. The proposed aerial wires present a substantial risk to that occurring.

Lastly, I want to recognize that there is a power need and that something will need to happen. Some have argued that localized power generators could be the answer. That may have some truth, but it probably isn't the sole answer. Between Xcel, Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis, the Metropolitan Council, and the State of Minnesota, a creative solution must be found. It's in the interest of all those involved to find a way to bury the power lines or find a different route for them to take. To efficiently accommodate regional and local growth, its in everybody's interest to ensure the Midtown Greenway corridor remains as competitively positioned as possible.

Thank you,

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Midtown Greenway biker,
Uptown business leader,
The Ackerberg Group employee