December 21, 2009

David Birkjholz
OES Permitting Staff Project Manager
MN Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security3
85 7th Place East, suite 500
St. Paul Mn 55101

RE: CapX 2020

Dear Mr. Birkhotz,

I am a concerned stakeholder affected by the CapX2020 Preferred & Alternate A North Routes in Stearns County. I want to express and make known my concerns. I have attended most of the informational meetings held by Xcel Energy. At those meeting there was overwhelming support to follow the I-94 corridor.

During the past year the original I-94 corridor has been opposed and lobbied by a few progressive local organizations, subsequently diverting the route from the I-94 corridor at Freeport. The Preferred and Alternate Route A is a meandering route that will add a tremendous amount of money to the cost of the project which will be passed on to the rate payers along with a greater negative environmental impact on the country side.

Please consider the I-94 corridor as a prudent and feasible route that would have the least amount of environmental impact and with the least cost to the rate payer.

Please add my name to the project contact list. John Harren 27148 Co Rd 39, Freeport MN. 56331, harrenjl@albanytel.com.

Sincerely,

John Harren

Cc: Bret Eknes, Minnesota Public utilities Commission
MN Senator Joe Gimse
MN Representative Paul Anderson