



**MICHIGAN
INFRASTRUCTURE
OFFICE**



May 22, 2024

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We are writing to support the grant application of Wolverine Power Cooperative (Wolverine) under the Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Wolverine is a Michigan-based generation and transmission cooperative that provides wholesale electricity to its member distribution cooperatives and serves retail customers throughout predominantly rural and agricultural portions of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

If Wolverine's grant application is successful, 100 percent of the grant award would be dedicated to reducing the cost of clean, reliable, and carbon-free wholesale electricity generated by the Palisades Nuclear Plant. This will support Wolverine's distribution member-cooperatives and the more than 257,000 homes, businesses, and farms they serve throughout rural Michigan. The Palisades Plant, located in Covert Township, Michigan, is owned by Holtec International, which received a conditional commitment from the U.S. Department of Energy on March 27, 2024, for a nearly \$1.5 billion loan to be used to restart operations at the Palisades Plant in late 2025 or early 2026.

Restoring the generation of 800 megawatts of reliable, base-load electricity at Palisades Nuclear Plant—enough to power more than 800,000 homes—is critical to addressing Michigan's growing energy needs and protects more than 600 good-paying local jobs. In addition to the restarting of the Palisades Nuclear Plant, the New ERA grant will drive economic growth and provide rural Michigan residents and businesses with reliable, affordable, and carbon-free electricity for decades to come.

On behalf of the State of Michigan, we ask that you give Wolverine's application your fair and full consideration. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

May 22, 2024

Michigan Infrastructure Office (MIO)



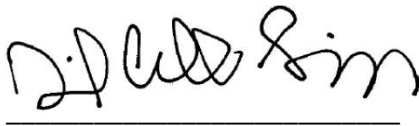
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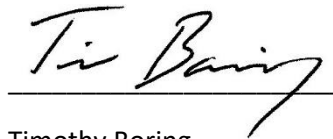
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