



June 8, 2026

Leah Mohr, Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 E. Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Ms. Mohr:

I am writing to you regarding South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) dockets EL26-009 and NG26-003 requesting Commission approval of NorthWestern Energy’s economic development 2025 expenses and 2026 proposed budgets for the electric and natural gas utilities.

At the commission hearing on May 19th, 2026, Chairman Nelson and Vice Chairwoman Fiegen requested that NorthWestern Energy remove membership dues to the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Professionals Association of South Dakota from the proposed 2026 budgets due to their concerns member dues may contribute to each organization’s political advocacy.

As the Commission requests, NorthWestern Energy agrees to remove those two organizations from the proposed 2026 budget. Please see the revised 2026 proposed economic development budgets and 2025 actual expenses for EL26-009 (Attachments A and B) and NG26-003 (Attachments A and B).

However, we would also like to note that our membership dues to these organizations have not been used for political ad campaigns or political advocacy as noted in our cover letter to the Commission in this docket. Documentation from these organizations stating that no member dues were used for political advocacy can be seen in the attached letters.

NorthWestern respectfully requests Commission approval of our revised proposed 2026 economic development budget. If there are any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Thank you,

**Pamela A. Bonrud**

*Director – Government and Regulatory Affairs*

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Cc: Rick Edwards, Director Community Connections, NorthWestern Energy  
Paul Mantz, Manager of National Accounts and Economic Development, NorthWestern Energy