

August 12, 2024

John Bear, Chief Executive Officer
Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.
701 City Center Drive
Carmel, IN 46032

Board of Directors
Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.
701 City Center Drive
Carmel, IN 46032

Dear Mr. Bear and the MISO Board of Directors,

The [Environmental Protection Network](#) (EPN) harnesses the expertise of more than 650 former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) career staff and confirmation-level appointees from Democratic and Republican administrations to provide the unique perspective of former regulators and scientists with decades of historical knowledge and subject matter expertise.

EPN is deeply cognizant of the need to rapidly transition to clean energy and avoid the most dire consequences of climate change that are already causing significant economic, public health, and environmental impacts. MISO's role in that effort cannot be overstated – MISO is, in many respects, the gatekeeper to achieving our climate ambitions across its territory that touches fifteen states and extends across much of the central United States. As the federal government, states, businesses, and utilities set increasingly ambitious clean energy and decarbonization targets, MISO's role as a partner and collaborator in achieving those goals in a timely manner is increasingly critical. We are concerned that MISO is not meeting that challenge.

While we applaud MISO's approval of the first portfolio of transmission projects through its ongoing Long-Range Transmission Planning process, it is widely acknowledged that this initial investment is not sufficient to achieve the high levels of clean energy penetration being pursued by MISO states and utilities. To that end, we urge MISO to move expeditiously to approve additional transmission system investments to truly unlock clean energy's potential to meet the growing demand for clean energy.

We also recognize that more transmission wires alone are not enough. We need more reforms to accelerate the ability for clean energy resources to come online. Just recently, for example, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's 2024 Queued Up report¹ showed a 30% increase in requests from new resources – primarily renewable energy – seeking interconnection to the bulk electricity system. We also need new market rules and operational protocols that allow these clean energy resources to be compensated for all the reliability services they can provide. All of this will also require increased transparency and inclusivity in decision making to ensure impacted communities and stakeholders have a say in their energy future.

We applaud MISO for acknowledging the challenges ahead and ramping up internal resources. We hope that MISO staff and leadership will accelerate your efforts to implement reforms that ensure MISO facilitates the

¹ https://emp.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/Queued%20Up%202024%20Edition_1.pdf

clean energy transition that states, utilities, business, and consumers are demanding. We encourage you to take all available measures to achieve the necessary reforms as quickly as possible to ensure a cleaner, healthier energy future for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Roos".

Michelle Roos
Executive Director

cc: Andre Porter, MISO Senior Vice President and General Counsel
stakeholderrelations@misoenergy.org