



Dear Mayor Hogan and Members of City Council,

We write to express our support for Xcel Energy's Pawnee-Daniels Park 345 kV Transmission Line Project, and encourage the City of Aurora's approval.

An existing 230 kV transmission line was built in the late 1960s through the City of Aurora to serve the future needs of the south Denver metro area. When it was built, the population of the City was about 70,000. Since then, the population of the City has grown to almost 360,000 residents, a nearly 400 percent increase, and over those 49 years the line and other electrical infrastructure in the area has helped to fuel that massive growth.

This additional transmission capacity project, which goes from Daniels Park to the new Harvest Mile substation at E-470 and Quincy, includes improvements at several substations and one new substation, and will connect to the Rush Creek Wind Project on Colorado's Eastern Plains. Rush Creek's wind power is the lowest cost source of electricity for the future needs of Xcel's customers. Unlike wind projects in many other parts of the country, this project must meet every standard set by the Public Utilities Commission so that rate payers are protected. To that end, there will be no additional rate payer increase driven by this project. Finally, and importantly, the entirety of this 21-mile project will all be located within an existing right of way that Xcel purchased over 50 years ago in anticipation of the growth.

As our mission statement indicates, the Aurora Economic Development Council is dedicated to enhancing the economic strength of the City of Aurora, and this project will do just that. By updating, improving and fortifying our infrastructure we can ensure that the future growth of the City of Aurora will be sustained, and that our infrastructure will also serve to attract new economic development to our area.

The project has received full approval from both Douglas County and the Town of Parker for those portions of the project, and construction on the substation will start as soon as next month, pending your approval. With that in mind, we respectfully request that the Aurora City Council approve this project as well to ensure the continued economic prosperity of our City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wendy Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Wendy Mitchell
President and CEO



Dear Mayor Hogan and Esteemed Members of Council,

re: Xcel's Proposed Pawnee-Daniels Park 345 kV transmission project

The population in the Denver Metro area has grown remarkably over the last 50 years. Aurora stands as one of the leaders of this growth given our proximity to the business centers of the region, and our attractive quality of life. The project before you is an opportunity to ensure future growth for many decades to come.

One of the key drivers of growth and economic development is affordable and reliable electricity. To ensure that the transmission grid can continue to support the south Denver metro area, we write to you to urge the approval of Xcel Energy's Pawnee-Daniels Park 345 kV transmission line project.

Since the last major transmission line was built in this area in 1968, the population in Douglas County has soared from 8,400 in 1970 to 300,000 in 2012. In that same time, Parker has grown from just 300 residents to more than 50,000 and Arapahoe County has grown from 150,000 to more than 600,000. Most pertinent to this letter, the City of Aurora has blossomed from 70,000 to more than 340,000.

We need the necessary electric transmission line infrastructure upgrades to continue to flourish. The Pawnee-Daniels Park project supports economic growth and job development for many years to come, while linking the region to our neighbors to the east with affordable and clean wind power. It's the right investment to support continued growth in the southeast Denver metro area and the Front Range.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin L. Hougen".

Kevin L. Hougen

President/CEO

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To the Mayor and City Council of Aurora:

We write in support of Xcel Energy's proposed Pawnee-Daniels Park 345 kV transmission project. This line is needed to continue our move toward clean reliable energy, while providing the residents, businesses and services of Aurora the electricity we need to prosper now and well into the future.

Today, there is more than 2,300 megawatts of wind generation across the state. Xcel Energy has been the number one wind provider in the nation for 10 years running. The wind industry is helping drive economic growth, job creation and tax revenue in our state.

This is another way of saying Colorado stands as a national leader in the production of wind energy and is home to companies that manufacture the components used to produce the energy.

The Pawnee-Daniels Park project serves as the final component to helping secure Colorado's continued move a clean energy economy by serving as the final connection point to the Rush Creek Wind Project. Every other aspect of Rush Creek has been approved and is ready to move forward.

It is up to the City of Aurora to see this project across the finish line. In addition to finalizing Rush Creek, the infrastructure upgrade provided by Pawnee-Daniels Park will make sure Aurora is nicely situated to capitalize on Colorado's continued and remarkable growth.

If we are truly committed to a clean energy future in the state, we need the necessary transmission backbone (along with needed redundancies to ensure no hiccups in service) to deliver the electricity from wind farms in rural areas to Front Range communities where most of the electricity users exist.

We simply can't have one without the other. The Pawnee-Daniels Park transmission project is critical to the future of renewable energy development in the state and we strongly urge the Aurora City Council to approve the project.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Golden, CAE, RCE
President/CEO
South Metro Denver Chamber