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COMMITTEES:
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GENERAL LAWS
RULES, JOINT RULES,
RESOLUTIONS AND ETHICS
SENIORS, FAMILIES AND PENSIONS

September 16, 2014

Commissioner Robert S. Kenney, Chairman
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Dear Chairman Kenney:

As State Senators we have been closely following with great interest the Noranda rate design case taking place at the Public Service Commission (PSC). Because Noranda is not able to secure an affordable electric rate real jobs have been lost in Southeast Missouri. The PSC has the ability to reverse these job losses immediately and prevent future layoffs or even worse, closure of the plant.

We support the rehearing and stipulation filed by the Office of Public Counsel (OPC). The OPC's stipulation is not opposed by anyone who is financially affected (although Ameren Missouri is opposed to this consumer friendly proposal, Ameren is financially unaffected by the compromise). The PSC staff supports the power rate for Noranda that is in the OPC's stipulation. The stipulation has strong support because consumers know rates will be lower if the PSC votes in favor of the compromise stipulation as opposed to having Noranda exit Ameren's system.

The PSC previously recognized it has the legal authority to provide Noranda with an affordable rate. As legislators we fully support the notion that ratemaking should take place at the Public Service Commission for investor-owned utilities and not in the legislature.


This is an economic development issue, but economic development for Noranda is getting a fair and affordable electric rate set by the PSC. And the best economic development tool is a job. Noranda currently provides approximately 900 good paying jobs in Southeast Missouri and those jobs are dependent on the PSC setting an affordable electric rate.

Noranda provides more than \$300 million in economic benefits annually to the region. It is crucial that Noranda's aluminum plant remains competitive. If that plant was to close, it would be very difficult to replace those jobs, plus ancillary jobs that supply Noranda with supplies & service. These high-quality and high-paying jobs allow those workers to have a positive impact on the communities where they live, both economically and as leaders contributing to the overall quality of life. Noranda's continued operations and profitability are of utmost importance to all the people of Southeast Missouri.

State policymakers go to great lengths to bring new jobs to Missouri. The Commission has an opportunity to approve a compromise solution that is supported by all affected parties in order to keep 900 jobs that are the lifeblood of an entire region. The Bootheel is one of the poorest regions in the country and taking away these 900 good paying manufacturing jobs would guarantee a fate that would devastate the entire region.

Noranda's survival depends on getting a favorable decision in this rate case. We cannot stress enough the importance of Noranda to the economy of the State and Southeast Missouri. Please support the OPC's compromise stipulation that provides a job to 900 hard-working employees that rely on Noranda to provide for their families. This is a consumer friendly approach that keeps rates lower for everyone.

Sincerely,



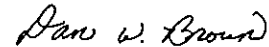
Senator Doug Libla
District 25



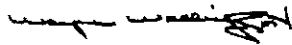
Sen. Gary Romine
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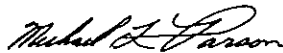
Sen. Eric Schmitt
District 15



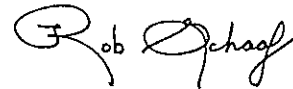
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