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**THE ENERGY LIFELINE COALITION OF WISCONSIN APPLAUDS GOVERNOR'S
INITIATIVE ON TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE**

Governor Doyle issues executive order to improve energy reliability in Wisconsin

MADISON, WI – This morning, Governor Jim Doyle issued an Executive Order directing the Public Service Commission and the Department of Natural Resources to streamline and better-coordinate their review and approval processes for siting and constructing transmission lines in Wisconsin. As a coalition of electric customers and users, the Energy Lifeline Coalition of Wisconsin (ELCW) supports Governor Doyle's efforts to increase Wisconsin's electric reliability.

In response to complaints that the lack of coordination between the PSC and DNR's approval processes can cause costly and unnecessary project delays, Doyle has directed PSC Chairperson Burnie Bridge and DNR Secretary Scott Hassett to examine their approval policies and procedures and improve cooperation between DNR and the PSC. Doyle emphasized Wisconsin's relatively weak transmission grid, having only 4 incoming high voltage transmission lines, compared to Illinois with 25 and Minnesota with 18, and the importance of constructing an additional high voltage line from the West at a reasonable cost.

While streamlining the approval process for new transmission projects to strengthen the state's electrical grid is imperative, Doyle also stressed the importance of keeping costs to ratepayers low, and maintaining Wisconsin's environmental standards.

Electricity demand is growing 2.5 – 3.5% each year in Wisconsin. Without making significant efforts toward improving the state's seriously strained electric infrastructure now, Wisconsin will face risks of electric shortages and the resulting economic harm. Wisconsin's focus today should be on reliability and access to relatively inexpensive power sources, not deregulation.

The Energy Lifeline Coalition of Wisconsin is a grass-roots organization that supports the construction of the Arrowhead-Weston transmission line in a timely, economic and environmentally responsible manner. Coalition members include small electric providers, state business groups, trade associations and unions all concerned about Wisconsin's aging transmission system.

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