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**Joint Committee on
Ways and Means**

Sen. Richard Devlin, Senate Co-Chair
Rep. Nancy Nathanson, House Co-Chair

Sen. Betsy Johnson, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Sen. Jackie Winters, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Ways and Means Full Committee

From: Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee

Re: SB 978 Relating to utilities

Senator Johnson: “SB 978 requires the Public Utility Commission to investigate trends, technologies, and policy drivers in the electricity sector; and directs the PUC to explore changes to the existing regulatory system and incentives that support developing industry trends and new policy objectives without compromising affordable rates, safety, and reliable service.

The PUC will need to hire a limited duration Utility and Energy Analyst 3 to conduct the study and report back to the Legislature. The proposed amendment provides increased expenditure limitation for this purpose. The total fiscal impact to the PUC is \$166,400 in the 2017-19 biennium.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends SB 978 be amended by the –A4 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.”