

Ellen Anderson Rejected as MPUC Chair

By [Eric F. Swanson](#) on January 30, 2012

The Minnesota Senate today rejected Governor Mark Dayton's appointment of Ellen Anderson as Chair of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission after a 37 to 29 vote. Anderson, who served in the State Senate for 18 years and sponsored the Renewable Energy Standard and Community Based Energy Development bills, was appointed to the position by Governor Dayton in March 2011.

DFLers say this decision is clearly a partisan decision and that with her record and qualifications, there is no reason she should lose her job. Deputy Senate Majority Leader Julianne Ortman said Friday that Anderson has "a tough record for job providers, job creators, the ratepayers" and is "not in line with Minnesotan's views." In opposing her nomination today on the Senate floor, Senator Rosen stated that Anderson has a history of opposing traditional energy sources and that her confirmation would not be in Minnesota's best interest.

An analysis of Commission votes since Anderson's appointment showed only six instances of Anderson voting in the minority. Dayton said Anderson has done nothing wrong as Chair of the Commission and called the decision "petty revenge." Two of Governor Pawlenty's Commissioners were rejected in 2004 and 2008 when the DFL held the majority in the Senate.