

Boulder Business Supports a “YES” Vote on 2L, 20, 2P

A twenty-first century electric utility would be very good for Boulder business.



More Control of Your Energy Costs

✓ **A local utility focuses on your bottom line, not theirs.**

- Non-profit public power rates are typically lower than investor-owned utilities across the US.
- Renewable energy costs have been plummeting. The fuel is free. More renewable energy enables rates to level off or decline.
- A local utility — freed from obligation to generate shareholder profits — could support energy and cost saving innovations such as more renewable energy, flexible generation, flexible grid development, microgrids and controls, demand side management, building efficiency and storage.
- If you currently pay Xcel for WindSource (about a 15% surcharge) to make your business green, 100% renewable local power would eliminate that surcharge.
- Your business could take billing and other concerns directly to local utility management for immediate resolution.
- Business could be an important voice in local public power decisions and policy-making instead of waiting in line at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

More Stable Rates

✓ **Predictable rates are essential for business planning.**

- Renewable energy generation has no fuel costs so future energy expenditures can be projected out over decades.
- Eliminating fossil fuels removes price fluctuations and potential shortages.
- Your business pays for the volatility in fossil fuel costs (including annual increases over the past decade) because — using the Electric Commodity Adjustment — Xcel simply passes these costs on to you. Xcel has no incentive to curb these costs.
- Xcel rates have increased 2% almost every year for the last decade, while Xcel’s Colorado profits have approximately doubled. Xcel takes approximately \$20M net profits from Boulder year after year.
- Xcel plans rate increases for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 totaling over 9%.

More Reliable Service

✓ **Increase competitive edge and reduce disruption.**

- Public utilities are more reliable than investor-owned utilities across Colorado and the US because, as non-profits, they invest more in their own infrastructure, burying power lines for example.

- A Boulder electric utility could have the same reliability as Fort Collins Utilities which is 99% “undergrounded,” and has the highest reliability ratings in Colorado.
- A Boulder public electric utility would encourage power production throughout the community, increasing resiliency and redundancy in the face of unpredictable events.

Business Growth and Innovation

✓ **Encourage a thriving and diverse entrepreneurial environment.**

- A local utility would facilitate a level playing field for small businesses that require access to 21st century electrical and communication grids in order to remain competitive.
- Businesses would be encouraged to innovate with their own renewable energy resources. That could provide them with new green marketing opportunities and the ability to meet their sustainability goals cost-effectively.
- Businesses could pilot peer-to-peer trading, sale of excess renewable capacity and other innovative financial arrangements not permitted by Xcel or the PUC regulatory environment.
- Xcel is constrained by the requirement to provide the same services to all cities and routinely presents obstacles to business innovation.
- Like Longmont, Boulder’s electric utility could operate a city-owned network adding optical fiber or integrating yet-to-be-developed communication technologies into the electric grid relatively cheaply, financed through revenue bonds guaranteed by the electricity income stream: Imagine a state of the art, city-wide municipal broadband with blazing speeds for a reasonable price.
- A Boulder-owned utility would prioritize hiring locally, thus pumping money into the local economy, an obvious plus for our business community.

Boulder Business!!! Step into the 21st Century

✓ **Vote YES on 2L.**

- 2L would increase the Utility Occupation Tax (UOT) for two years and then drop back to the current UOT rate until 2022. A line item on your bill, the money goes to the general fund.
- Voting YES on 2L preserves our options, allows us to figure out the costs of public power, and maintains our leverage to urge Xcel to clean up its electricity supply.
- Importantly, if at any time we vote to take an off-ramp, this UOT will be discontinued.

A few dollars a month is a small price to pay for an independent 21st century energy and communication future.

Visit EmpowerOurFuture.org for more information