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**Power Line Expansion Critical to the Future of Dane County  
*CSC endorses the need for increased energy infrastructure***

(MADISON) – The Common Sense Coalition today endorsed the need for expanding the energy infrastructure that supplies Dane County. “With Dane County being the fastest growing county in Wisconsin, we must ensure that we invest in the essential infrastructure to maintain our quality of life as we deal with a growing population,” said Michael Quigley, CSC Executive Director. The American Transmission Co. has proposed building a new 345 kilovolt transmission line in Dane County to keep pace with the growing electrical demand.

Dane County is in the midst of major changes in how and where its electrical power comes from. Madison Gas & Electric, in a move that was lauded by both local leaders and environmental groups, announced plans to close the coal burning generator in its downtown Madison power plant. Instead by 2011, it will switch to a cleaner and more efficient natural gas-fired plant, but with an almost 50% reduced energy generation capacity.

There also is uncertainty about the continued operation of the county’s other major power plant, the Rock Gen facility in eastern Dane County. “There is no doubt that without an investment today in expanding our energy infrastructure in the form of new transmission lines, there will be serious problems in the near future with providing the power our region requires. With reduced locally generated capacity and growing demand, common sense dictates that we have to get that power from somewhere,” continued Quigley.

CSC will continue to examine the three proposed line routes and plans to weigh in regarding the best route after receiving more input from both public forums and its membership.

The Common Sense Coalition is a non-partisan, diverse, public policy group comprised of individuals, community leaders, small business owners and 17 organized labor unions representing building and construction trades, police officers, and fire fighters. The group has organized around taking common sense approaches to governing, economic development and providing “jobs, justice and a brighter future.”

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