



July 10, 2013

Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Dear City Council Members:

The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota supports the local designation of the St. Paul Gas Light Company Island Station. Island Station was the first power plant in the Twin Cities area that utilized pulverized coal technology. It was designed by the prominent architectural and engineering firm of Toltz, King and Day (now TKDA). The plant is associated with St. Paul's growth and economic development during the early 1920s, particularly the response to increased demand for various electrical devices for household use. In 1925, one year after opening, Island Station was acquired by Northern States Power, which operated the facility on a standby basis until 1973, when it was decommissioned. The building maintains integrity and the significance is clearly outlined.

Historic resources are irreplaceable. This building defines the landscape in this St. Paul neighborhood and along the Mississippi River. Adaptive reuse of historic buildings should be promoted especially our iconic places that define a community and its history. The City Comprehensive Plan, Historic Preservation Chapter calls for the city to be a leader in historic preservation. Proper evaluation and designation are critical steps in preservation leadership. The thorough study provides clear rationale on why this building meets criteria 1 and 7.

St. Paul Gas Light Company building is a significant historic property and the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota supports the recommendation to locally designate the property.

Sincerely,

Doug Gasek
Executive Director



PRESERVE



PROTECT



PROMOTE

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