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## **News Release** Stoughton Utilities

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2021

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## Local Leaders Meet with Legislators to Discuss Energy Policy

Virtual Meetings with Legislators Focused on COVID-19's Impact on Stoughton's Residents, Climate Change, and Keeping Electric Costs Down

Mayor Tim Swadley and Assistant Utilities Director Brian Hoops advocated on behalf of Stoughton and Stoughton Utilities at the American Public Power Association's (APPA) 2021 Legislative Rally Mar. 1-2. The annual event, which normally occurs in Washington, D.C., was held virtually this year due to the pandemic. Swadley and Hoops met with Senator Tammy Baldwin (D) and staff from Senator Ron Johnson's (R) office, as well as Congressman Mark Pocan.

"This year's rally was an important opportunity to discuss COVID-19's impact on Stoughton Utilities customers and to highlight the crucial role the federal government plays in providing sorely needed funding for those facing economic hardships," stated Mayor Swadley. "Climate policy was another key topic, as we continue to explore ways to reduce emissions while ensuring a reliable and affordable power supply."

Attendees spoke during the meetings on why it is necessary for not-for-profit entities such as Stoughton Utilities to have access to the same tax credits investor-owned utilities currently receive for the ownership of renewable energy generation projects. This policy recommendation, along with others, would give way to additional opportunities that could help keep average wholesale power supply costs down — thereby helping to keep electric costs lower for the residents and businesses of Stoughton.

"This year's APPA Legislative Rally was a unique chance to meet virtually with our Congressional delegation and to discuss the admirable job public power communities have done in keeping the lights on throughout a global pandemic," said Joseph Owen, Director of Government Affairs for WPPI Energy. "Public power officials are well positioned to communicate to Congress on what our communities need in order to recover from the strain this past year has placed on all of us and to detail the policies that will keep Stoughton Utilities' rates affordable as we aim to build back and strengthen the local economy."

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Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area, and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.

Member-owned, not-for-profit WPPI Energy serves Stoughton Utilities and 50 other locally owned electric utilities. Together, WPPI members have built a diverse, competitive and responsible power supply. They share advanced technologies, forward-thinking services and a unified voice for effective energy policy advocacy.