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## *News Release*

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### **Local Utilities Participated in Parade Around Capitol in Madison**

#### ***Municipal Leaders Met with Lawmakers to Raise Awareness of Public Power***

MADISON, Wis. – On Wednesday, Oct. 18, representatives from Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW) met at the State Capitol with 108 legislators to talk about issues important to the 81 public power communities in Wisconsin. The meetings took place just before a parade of more than 80+ utility vehicles and bucket trucks from utility companies across the state arrived at the Capitol Square in celebration of MEUW's 95th anniversary. The truck drivers assembled at Waunakee Utilities and traveled in a caravan to downtown Madison.

Brian Carroll of the Village of Gresham was one of dozens of municipal leaders to attend. He said, "We are proud to be owned by the community and operating to serve our residents. We rely on MEUW to train our lineworkers and be our voice with lawmakers on issues that matter to our utility and customers. This event was a fitting way to celebrate public power."

In addition to the one-on-one meetings with community leaders and the parade, state lawmakers were given the opportunity to take a lift in a bucket truck, so they could get a better idea of what it is like to do work on power lines. Other events of the day included a trade show of utility suppliers and safety demonstrations by and for MEUW members in Waunakee.

Wisconsin's 81 public power utilities are locally owned, locally controlled and locally operated, enabling them to quickly respond to the needs of their communities. They operate as not-for-profits without the use of tax dollars. Municipal electric utilities are among the most affordable and reliable power providers in the state.

"Ninety-five years is a long time to successfully serve the 81 community-owned public power companies that mean so much to hundreds of thousands of people and businesses across Wisconsin," said MEUW President and CEO Tim Heinrich. "Today we talked with legislators to make sure public power always has a place at the table as our monumental anniversary parade circled Capitol Square. You could feel the pride of our public power workers as the parade went by. It was a great day."

Full details are available at [www.95th.mymeuw.com](http://www.95th.mymeuw.com).

*Formed in 1928, MEUW is the state association providing safety services, leadership and management training, advocacy, and member support to 81 municipal electric utilities across Wisconsin. Collectively, these public power utilities distribute more than 11 percent of the electricity in Wisconsin and most have century-old roots in serving their communities. Municipal utilities operate on a not-for-profit basis overseen by a local governing board composed of local citizens and elected officials. To learn more, visit [meuw.org](http://meuw.org).*

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