**Public utility workers are (CITY/TOWN/STATE’s) unsung heroes of coronavirus crisis**

If there is a silver lining to the coronavirus pandemic, it has to be a new sense of appreciation for the men and women who keep (CITY/TOWN/STATE’s) critical infrastructure running smoothly. From doctors and nurses to grocery-shelf stockers to parcel delivery personnel, the importance of these essential workers to our society and our economy cannot be overstated.

The men and women who work for (STATE’s) public power utilities belong in this special class of often unsung heroes. They are quite literally powering America through this crisis.

More than 49 million Americans (including XXXX in STATE) get their electricity from not-for-profit, community-owned public power utilities like (UTILITY).

(UTILITY) provides low-cost, reliable electricity to (X) people in (region/town) and employs (XX people). Last year, it contributed ($XX dollars) to the local economy including (insert economic impact statistics - e.g. revenue from payments in lieu of taxes).

In (YEAR), our community made a choice to operate under a public power model so that our utility would be responsive and accountable to the community first. Being a public power utility has allowed us to make critical investments in maintenance and improvement of our electrical grid to ensure its reliability, especially during times of crisis.

In (YEAR, UTILITY [insert anecdote - e.g. upgraded its grid technology, acquired a new piece of equipment, etc.]). In 2020 (and beyond), we remain committed to serving our community. (Insert plans for future utility improvement).

During challenging times like the ones we now find ourselves in, the last thing (members of our community) should have to be concerned about is the safety and reliability of their electricity supply.

With more than 90 percent of the U.S. population confined to their homes (alt. percent of STATE population if available and/or information on state/local stay-at-home orders), home energy use has predictably increased.

It isn’t just your homes that depend upon public power. (UTILITY) also provides power to (list names of local hospitals, military bases, factories and plants, or mention police stations, grocery stores, and other critical facilities served).

A low-cost, reliable supply of electricity is a blessing that is too often taken for granted.

The simple act of turning on a light switch or charging a smartphone is made possible by the engineers, technicians, lineworkers, and support staff that comprise America’s public power workforce. They do their jobs with care and professionalism, often at great personal sacrifice and risk. They are a perfect example of ordinary people doing extraordinary things to help their communities and their country in times of need.

They deserve all of the protections, privileges, and praise afforded to the essential workforce.

They also deserve all the respect and appreciation a grateful nation and (COMMUNITY) can offer.