

March 24, 2022

Chair Senjem and Members of the Senate Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the 29,000 members and family members of Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota, I am writing in support of SF 225 (Kiffmeyer), SF 4082 (Mathews) and SF 4163 (Mathews).

For decades, LIUNA men and women have worked alongside Building Trades brothers and sisters to construct and safely maintain Minnesota's fleet of conventional and nuclear power plants. Minnesota's nuclear power plants, in particular, have provided family-supporting work and career opportunities to hundreds of LIUNA members and thousands of Minnesotans.

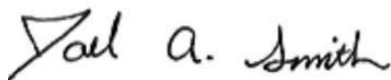
Nuclear power is an essential tool in Minnesota's energy toolbox. In combination with wind and solar energy, the operation of the Monticello and Prairie Island nuclear plants has allowed Minnesota to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions without jeopardizing reliability. Equally important to our members, these facilities provide significant economic benefits to surrounding communities and area workers that would be very difficult to replace.

Advances in nuclear technology have the potential to reduce construction and operations costs, increase flexibility, and enhance safety, but none of those benefits will be available to Minnesotans unless we pursue innovation and remove existing policy barriers to the development of clean firm generation resources.

Senate Files 225, 4082 and 4163 will ensure that Minnesota is able to update our carbon-free energy toolbox by supporting research on the potential of advanced nuclear energy generation to meet the state's need for clean, firm generation, especially during periods when the output from solar and wind is low. We urge you to support this legislation in order to take full advantage of technological innovation by lifting restrictions on the consideration of nuclear technology.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Joel Smith
President and Business Manager
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota