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March 23, 2022

Chair David Senjem
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3401
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Mary Kiffmeyer
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3103
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Senjem and Senator Kiffmeyer:

On behalf of the Prairie Island Indian Community and its members, please accept this letter in opposition to Senate File 225, which would remove the prohibition on the issuance of a certificate of need for the construction of new nuclear-powered electric generating plants. I want to be clear that the Prairie Island Indian Community does not oppose nuclear power. However, until there is a mechanism in place for the safe storage of nuclear waste, we cannot support the construction of new nuclear power, and by extension, the creation of new nuclear waste.

The Prairie Island Indian Community sits a mere 700 yards from the Prairie Island Nuclear Power plant and the forty-seven casks of spent nuclear fuel. We are the closest community in the country to a nuclear power plant. Every day, we bear the burden of our nation's failed nuclear waste disposal policy.

As a result of our situation, we strenuously advocate for the removal of the nuclear waste that is currently on site at Prairie Island, as well as future waste that is generated from the plant. Our concern with Senate File 225 is that, if new nuclear energy generation were constructed, Prairie Island could become the de facto storage site for the spent nuclear waste. This would mean that the nuclear waste deposited 700 yards from our community would grow at a much faster rate. In short, we are interested in less nuclear waste next to our community, not more.

Again, we want to be clear that our community doesn't oppose nuclear power as a means of energy generation. However, without a concrete and workable policy in place to remove the waste, we cannot support additional construction of nuclear power plants, which would produce new and additional waste that could very possibly end up 700 yards from our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

Pidamayaye (Thank you),



Johnny Johnson
Tribal Council President