



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

February 7, 2023

Senator Andrew Mathews
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2233
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: S.F. 1171 – ADVANCED NUCLEAR STUDY AND APPROPRIATIONS

Dear Senator Mathews:

Xcel Energy aspires to provide our customers 100 percent carbon-free electricity in the coming decades as we transition from our current resource mix. To fulfill this aspiration, we will continue to increase renewable energy resources along with technologies that enable renewable integration.

As we look beyond 2030 and towards our goal of eliminating the remaining carbon emissions from the power grid, we need carbon-free technologies that are dispatchable—available anytime or 24/7—to maintain system reliability while operating high-levels of variable wind and solar energy resources. New carbon-free dispatchable technologies on the horizon include:

- Advanced wind and solar energy systems
- Long-duration storage and advanced demand efficiency
- Advanced geothermal
- Zero-carbon fuels, such as hydrogen and ammonia
- Advanced nuclear energy, both fission and fusion
- Carbon capture, utilization, and storage.

As the only utility in Minnesota operating nuclear power plants, we understand the important role that our existing nuclear fleet plays in our carbon free vision. Our nuclear fleet operates at a greater than 95% capacity factor and we have been able to reduce operation and maintenance costs by more than 30% since 2013, while maintaining the highest safety standards. As we look to future technology, the addition of advanced nuclear energy resources has the potential to provide similar dispatchable energy to our portfolio.

We also believe it is important to examine the back end of the fuel cycle as part of this study. Our current nuclear host communities did not agree to be the host site

for the indefinite storage of spent nuclear fuel. We should better understand the work by the Department of Energy on a consent-based siting program as well as private initiatives to build and operate consolidated interim storage. Moreover, we think it is critically important to include our current host communities, which include our neighboring tribal community, in this study as well.

Filling a gap for carbon-free dispatchable energy is important to our company, our customers, and our communities. For these reasons we support this advanced nuclear study and its potential impacts on jobs, community impacts and the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pamela Gorman Prochaska". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping tail.

PAMELA GORMAN PROCHASKA

DIRECTOR, NUCLEAR REGULATORY POLICY & STRATEGY