

Dear Members of the Senate Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the 70,000 union construction professionals in the state of Minnesota, we write to express our support for SF 2824 and SF 2823 in front of the committee today.

The Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council and our affiliate unions represent unionized workers across all crafts within the construction industry. As such, our members perform construction, maintenance, and operations work on a wide array of energy infrastructure, including wind, solar, coal, natural gas, and nuclear. This includes work at the Monticello and Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plants.

Nuclear power generation has a critical part to play as Minnesota seeks to rapidly decarbonize its electric system, in order to achieve 100% clean energy by 2040. As a carbon-free source of baseload power, nuclear power can help ensure that our electricity system is reliable and affordable as we bring more renewable energy resources on to the grid. Additionally, nuclear power has the potential to be used to generate green hydrogen which will help facilitate the decarbonization of our buildings and industrial sector. The feasibility study will help accelerate the development of this technology.

In the coming years, advanced nuclear energy technology has the potential to provide further opportunities for decarbonization while preserving and creating good-paying jobs for our members. However, with the current nuclear moratorium in place, Minnesota faces the possibility of being left behind. Even if the moratorium is lifted, projects would still be required to go through an extensive environmental review and permitting regulatory process, including approvals at the federal and state level.

The two bills in front of the committee today (SF 2824, SF 2823) represent concrete steps the legislature could take to ensure that Minnesota is able to take full advantage of all available technologies as we seek to decarbonize our energy system while maintaining reliability and affordability for consumers and good paying jobs for workers. As such, we support both bills.

Sincerely,

Tom Dicklich, Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council  
Adam Duinick, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters  
Kevin Pranis, LIUNA MN & ND  
John Pollard, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49