



Minnesota Rural Electric Association

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March 17, 2023

Senator Nick Frentz
Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
95 University Avenue W., Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee,

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) represents the interests of the state's 50 rural electric cooperatives. Our member cooperatives are not-for-profit electric utility businesses that are locally owned and governed by the member-consumers they serve. We submit this letter to express our support for SF 2824, which will allow the MN Public Utilities Commission to issue a certificate of need for a nuclear-powered generating plant with a capacity of 300 MW or less.

Minnesota's cooperatives believe carbon free nuclear power must be an option available to the electric utility industry to maintain a reliable and affordable power mix as the industry continues its rapid transition. The need for this has been further accentuated by the legislature's recent passage of a bill requiring 100% carbon free electricity by 2040. Our support is summarized within our member approved resolutions:

The MREA supports nuclear energy and calls on the State Legislature to rescind the moratorium on the building of nuclear plants in Minnesota. All forms of nuclear energy, a source of carbon free electricity, should be considered an energy resource within the constraints of Minnesota energy policy to give power producers another option in reducing carbon emissions.

This bill, SF 2824, is a needed step in a positive direction. Minnesota's cooperatives are considering alternatives for bringing small modular reactors to market. This legislation is an important ingredient in moving those efforts forward successfully.

We thank Senator Mathews and the bipartisan authors of this bill for introducing it. We appreciate the Committee for considering this bill and we encourage members to vote in support of it.

Sincerely,

Darrick Moe
President & CEO
Minnesota Rural Electric Association