

MINNESOTA ADVOCATES FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY

2837 Sunset Blvd
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Chair Senator Nick Frentz & Committee Members
Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee
3109 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee (the Committee):

Minnesota Advocates for Nuclear Energy (MANE) respectfully submits this letter regarding your current Omnibus, SCS 2847a9, and in particular, your Advanced Nuclear Energy Study (ANE) provisions, at 3:15 (appropriation) and ANE Study at 106.6 through 107.3.

First and foremost, we appreciate, commend and thank the Committee for including the ANE Study in its Omnibus legislation. Although we supported a full or partial lift of the 29-year moratorium, we recognize this is an important step forward given more than two decades of efforts to lift the moratorium, fully or partially.¹

We respectfully urge you to give the ANE Study your strong, continuing and vigorous support as it passes from the Senate Floor vote to the Senate-House Conference/Reconciliation Committee. We are especially concerned that, to our knowledge, no bill has been introduced, nor emerged from your counterpart House Energy Committee. Given this is not a question of reconciling a few bits of disparate language, we have fears that House Committee leadership may affirmatively opposes **any** nuclear energy legislation.

Regarding two provisions of the ANE Study:

- **First**, we urge you to require completion of the ANE Study Report by no later than January 31, 2024, the completion date provided in the original ANE Study Bill, [SF 1171](#) rather than January 31, 2025, in that:
 - i. Time is of the essence, especially given the decarbonization deadlines on the newly enacted [2023 Clean Energy Act, Minn. Stat. Sec. 216B.1691](#), and the significant contributions ANE could make to meeting the Net Carbon Zero (NCZ) deadline by 2040.
 - ii. Achieving the completion of the Study and a comprehensive and excellent Report, assuming reasonable attention, can easily be completed within 6.5 month (i.e. by January 31, 2024) or less. In our opinion, extending that period another year, creating a period of over 19 months no necessary and only engenders delay in achieving MN ambitious 2040 NCZ goal.
 - iii. Following the lifting of the moratorium, there will be a long advance process for any company, electric utility or their investors to consider the siting and building an ANE plant in

Minnesota, even if it is a small modular reactor (SMR) facility, followed by NRC and Minnesota regulatory approval, capital formation and construction. Thus, in our opinion, again, saving 12 months in generating the Report is appropriate.

- **Second**, we urge your Committee to place some guidelines on the Commissioner as to the qualifications of the ANE Study Task Force and that it not simply be internal people from the Commerce Department. For example, its members might include representatives from: electric utilities and their investors, labor, metro and rural communities, experts, scientists, and others in fields related to nuclear energy and environmental impacts, and one representative of the Commerce Department.

In closing, thank you for this opportunity to provide our input. We again express our appreciation for including the ANE Study and its \$300,000 appropriation in the Committees' Omnibus, and beginning the process of potentially ending the 29-year ban and two-decade process of unproductive legislative impasses on that subject.ⁱⁱ

Respectively Submitted,

Seymour Mansfield
MANE Founder & Chair

ⁱ See, e.g., [Reps. Paulsen and Walz call to lift ban on nuclear power](#) (Nov. 2009); [Minnesota nuclear power moratorium debate returns](#) (March 2015); [Minnesota House votes to lift nuclear power ban](#) (Feb. 2011).

ⁱⁱ We stand at your service if we can help you with the suggested modifications or anything else in the process.