



Generation Atomic  
1878 Pascal Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55113

March 28th, 2023

Dear Members of the Minnesota Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee,

We at Generation Atomic are writing to express our support for SF 2847, the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Finance Omnibus Bill, which includes provisions that would appropriate funding for a study of advanced nuclear technologies. While this bill makes a well-rounded effort towards the state's energy policy, we believe that it is critical to explore all options when it comes to planning for Minnesota's energy future.

Nuclear energy has proven to be a vital part of the state's energy mix, and a feasibility study would help demonstrate advanced nuclear's potential to further benefit the state in areas such as decarbonization, grid reliability, and the economy.

According to the [Energy Information Administration](#), in 2021, the majority of Minnesota's energy consumption still comes from fossils like natural gas and coal. In order for Minnesota to make the clean energy transition and pursue its climate goals, the state needs all forms of carbon-free power- especially nuclear. As a carbon-free power source with the [highest capacity factor](#), nuclear provides the best option to both decarbonize the state's grids while also making sure the lights stay on in times of extreme hot or cold. Funding for a feasibility study would help put these benefits into the context of Minnesota's specific electricity needs.

Advanced nuclear energy technologies also have the opportunity to provide long term, high-paying jobs to more of Minnesota's workforce during this transition. With the highest [median salary](#) and rates of [unionization](#) in the energy industry, repowering and replacing existing fossil facilities with new nuclear presents a just transition for fossil industry workers and their families. Their communities would benefit as well, as nuclear plants "[on average](#) deliver around \$400 million annually to the economic livelihood of local communities". SF 2847 and the feasibility study included in this bill would work to better demonstrate these economic benefits, as well as the other ways nuclear can help Minnesota meet its goals in other areas.

SF 2847, specifically its inclusion of funding for an advanced nuclear feasibility study, is an important step forward towards an energy future that takes into account both the real effects of climate change and the electricity needs of its constituents. We strongly encourage your support.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Eric Meyer

Executive Director

Generation Atomic

**About Generation Atomic:**

Generation Atomic is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is growing a movement to fight for the atomic energy of today and tomorrow. Since 2017 they've reached millions of people over social media and empowered thousands to contact their elected officials in support of protecting today's reactors from early shutdown and laying the groundwork for the next generation of low carbon, environmentally friendly energy. Learn more and take action at [GenerationAtomic.Org](http://GenerationAtomic.Org).