

February 21, 2024

Minnesota Senate
Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate
Minnesota Senate Building, Room, 1150
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Senate File 3120 - Advanced Nuclear Technologies Study

Dear Chair Frentz, Senator Mathews, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), I write today in support of Senate File 3120, a proposal to require the Minnesota Department of Commerce to study advanced nuclear reactor technology and its potential impacts on the environment, health, electricity costs, reliability, and economic development in the state. As Minnesota has committed to achieving 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040, it is vital all forms of carbon-free energy be analyzed and understood for their potential to help meet our state's objective. This includes advanced nuclear technologies as well as other firm, carbon-free dispatchable resources such as energy storage technologies and hydrogen.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We are focused on educating Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy. Our business membership is comprised of over 60 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state. CEEM stands committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens thrive.

As the path to our clean energy goals has become clearer, the federal government and global partners have made clear they believe nuclear energy will play a key role in a clean energy future. According to the United States Department of Energy (USDOE), 200 GW of new nuclear generation by 2050 will be needed in the United States to meet national decarbonization targets.¹ At the most recent 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28), more than 20 countries, including the United States, declared to triple nuclear energy capacity by 2050, recognizing the key role of nuclear energy in reaching net zero.²

CEEM sees exciting potential in advanced nuclear to complement renewable power generation from sources like wind and solar. We support a study weighing the costs and benefits of this promising technology.

Sincerely,



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¹ Department of Energy: Sector Spotlight: Advanced Nuclear: <https://www.energy.gov/lpo/articles/sector-spotlight-advanced-nuclear>

² Department of Energy: At COP28, Countries Launch Declaration to Triple Nuclear
<https://www.energy.gov/articles/cop28-countries-launch-declaration-triple-nuclear-energy-capacity-2050-recognizing-key>