



February 21, 2024

Members of the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee

Re: SF 3120 -- Factors to include in any study on “advanced nuclear” technologies

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Committee:

CURE is a rural voice, working to protect and restore resilient towns and landscapes by harnessing the power of people who care about them. We proudly supported the 100% Carbon Free Electricity bill because we know climate disruption harms rural communities, and clean energy is a huge opportunity for rural resilience, health, jobs and economic benefit.

As the costs and risks of nuclear energy far exceed that posed by renewable energy, we are concerned that time, money and attention spent exploring nuclear technology distracts from focused deployment of the renewable energy we know will safely, economically, and reliably power our communities.

Should a study be advanced, we ask that the language

- 1) Refer to “waste” as “radioactive waste;” and
- 2) Include investigation of the following components:
 - a. Impact of radioactive emissions, discharges, and leaks,
 - b. Storage of radioactive wastes,
 - c. Risks to non-proliferation,
 - d. Vulnerability to serious accidents or terrorist attacks, and the
 - e. Effects of obtaining the fuel (*e.g.*, mining and enriching uranium).

CURE works every day to ensure rural communities are part of creating and protecting their future. Thank you for your consideration.

Duane Ninneman

Executive Director
CURE