

January 22, 2025

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

RE: Hearing on Data Center and Nuclear Energy

Dear Chair Frentz and Chair Mathews,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today with our general thoughts on two crucial energy issues the committee is discussing today: the future role of data centers and nuclear energy in Minnesota.

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 comprises over 70 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 will thrive.

Data centers have inspired a new era of excitement and uncertainty for the energy industry, presenting significant opportunities for investment and job creation across our state. CEEM business members are actively engaged throughout the entire data center value chain – from energy generation to building the facilities, providing backup power, and ensuring the buildings are energy efficient. These data centers, particularly the hyperscale data centers, offer a unique opportunity to attract substantial economic investment while contributing significantly to the future energy infrastructure needs and lowering the costs for other ratepayers. CEEM and our membership will be keenly interested in contributing to the discussion around data centers as we move forward with this legislative session.

CEEM has closely monitored the debate on new nuclear power and the role nuclear energy will play in Minnesota and the United States. The federal government and global partners have made clear they believe nuclear energy will be a key contributor to 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 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. For this reason, CEEM has supported efforts to study the costs and benefits of this promising technology. All forms of carbon-free energy must be analyzed and understood for their potential to help meet our state's objective; this includes advanced nuclear technologies and other firm, carbon-free dispatchable resources such as energy storage technologies and hydrogen.

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>