

January 22, 2025



Chair Nick Frentz, Chair Andrew Mathews  
Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue W. St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Frentz, Chair Mathews, and Members of the Minnesota Senate Energy Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum (MNEF), a non-profit education and advocacy organization that promotes an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy for Minnesota. Our organization encourages policymakers to embrace innovations in clean, reliable and affordable energy based on principles such as economic growth, property rights, free markets, personal stewardship, job growth, and national security. We applaud the committee for engaging in these vital discussions about Minnesota’s energy future.

Minnesota's electricity demand is surging and will only increase with increasing electrification, as well as the numerous data centers slated to be constructed in our state. These facilities, which support remote work, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence, bring substantial economic benefits through job creation, tax revenue, and infrastructure investments. This growth, combined with increasing electrification across industries, underscores our pressing need for clean, affordable, and reliable power.

With Minnesota's mandate for 100% clean energy by 2040, we face the fundamental challenge of maintaining reliability while transitioning toward a more diverse, homegrown mix of energy sources. We acknowledge that intermittent power sources alone cannot meet our state’s demand. Meeting this ambitious target while keeping the lights on will require utilizing every available tool in our arsenal.

Nuclear energy represents a crucial component of Minnesota’s clean energy future, offering reliable, carbon-free baseload power with a minimal footprint. Minnesota already generates approximately 25% of its electricity from just two nuclear facilities at Prairie Island and Monticello, demonstrating nuclear's impressive capacity and stability. With additional development of both large-scale facilities and innovative technologies like small modular reactors (SMRs), we could significantly expand this clean, reliable generation. However, Minnesota's nuclear moratorium unnecessarily blocks this path forward. Major technology companies, including Google, Microsoft, and Meta, have expressed interest in nuclear power for their data centers, and our moratorium risks disadvantaging Minnesota in attracting these investments.

Repealing the moratorium would not fast-track nuclear energy development; rather, it would remove an outdated barrier to thoughtful planning while maintaining rigorous safety and environmental standards. Including nuclear energy in Minnesota’s planning mix would strengthen our state’s commitment to reliability and security while supporting our critical infrastructure.

We urge the committee to consider these points as you shape Minnesota's energy future. An all-of-the-above approach, including nuclear energy, is essential for meeting our growing needs while protecting ratepayers and maintaining our state's competitive edge.

Thank you for your consideration of these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel E. Stuckey".

Rachel Stuckey  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum