
January 27, 2025

Minnesota Senate

Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF350 Certificate of need issuance for a new nuclear power plant prohibition abolishment
SF468 Certificates of need authorization for certain small modular reactors

Dear Chair Mathews, Chair Frentz and Members of the Committee,

Citizens' Climate Lobby Minnesota (CCL MN) is a non-partisan, non-profit volunteer driven advocacy organization working to advance climate, clean energy and conservation solutions. I write today on behalf of our chapters and thousands of volunteers across Minnesota. In order to reduce emissions at the speed and scale required, we think it's important to consider all technology options, including nuclear, that will help move us quickly towards 100% clean energy. Renewables such as solar and wind have an important role as does nuclear, especially to provide firm, reliable power with the ability to 'keep the lights on' during extreme weather events. Many experts believe that nuclear energy, a major source of carbon-free electricity in most advanced economies, will continue to play an important role in decarbonization, and CCL MN respects that expertise.

There are many technical reasons (affordability, baseload power, clean power, clean heat, load growth, reliability) to lift Minnesota's nuclear moratorium and open our doors up for new investments in advanced reactors. More importantly, lifting the moratorium today is taking action to help future generations of Minnesotans enjoy our four seasons, 10,000 lakes and the natural beauty we are blessed to share with one another. Lifting the moratorium can keep our communities clean, healthy and provide good paying jobs years into the future. Lifting the moratorium can ensure that everyone has access to affordable and reliable power and heat needed to support our modern society and quality of life. In short, lifting the moratorium is good for all us that call Minnesota our home today, and for future generations.

We acknowledge and support the need for continued conversation over safety and storage. We are holding these conversations with our volunteer base and the recent Senate hearings are helpful to better understand perspectives on the moratorium and nuclear in general. The United States with controls and regulations in place has proven over the past 30 years that nuclear reactors are safe. We are also aware of growing bipartisan support in Congress for nuclear energy and remain optimistic a long-term solution for spent fuel storage is possible. Canada recently announced plans for a permanent spent nuclear fuel storage facility north of our Minnesota border. Lifting the moratorium does not approve a specific project, but it does allow needed conversations to advance. It is time for the Minnesota Legislature to recognize the progress and potential of advanced nuclear to lift our great state into the future, today, by lifting the moratorium.

Sincerely,

Greg Jason

CCL MN Statewide Team Leader