



Dear Co-Chair Mathews and Co-Chair Frentz and members of the Senate Energy Committee,

Minnesota's energy landscape is undergoing a significant transformation. To ensure the State addresses the known challenges and reaps the potential benefits; the Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance (MNEA), is calling on legislators to lift Minnesota's 30-year-old moratorium on nuclear energy. This Alliance of utilities, labor unions, business, agriculture, energy non-profits and environmental organizations have a mutual commitment towards reliable, affordable, carbon-free energy, including nuclear.

Nuclear Energy in Minnesota Now & in the Future:

- Minnesota's existing nuclear plants generate roughly half of the State's carbon-free electricity. Lifting the nuclear moratorium will provide options for additional affordable, reliable, carbon-free energy that meets the 2040 carbon free standard.
- For over 70 years, U.S. nuclear reactors have safely stored all spent fuel with significant federal and state oversight.
- New nuclear plants in Minnesota would create thousands of safe, good-paying, reliable union jobs for generations of Minnesota.
- Needed to ensure the lights turn on. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has identified the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) region, which includes Minnesota, as being at high risk of capacity shortfalls within the next decade. [NERC's 2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment](#) highlights the urgent need for firm, reliable power sources like nuclear energy to maintain grid stability and meet increasing demand.
- While state and regional electrical demand has been historically stable or declining, recent trends in electrification and technology demands have resulted in projected increase in electrical power needs in the coming decades.
- While other states have lifted their moratorium in acknowledgement of the changes needs in the energy sector, Minnesota maintains the strictest nuclear ban on all new nuclear reactor construction. Lifting the moratorium would allow stakeholders to have productive conversations about how advanced nuclear technology could contribute to the state's clean energy future.

The Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance (MNEA) looks forward to working with legislators and Governor Walz to craft responsible bipartisan energy policy that ensures every Minnesotan has reliable, affordable and safe electricity as we move towards a carbon-free Minnesota.

MN Nuclear Energy Alliance Members

ALLETE/ MN Power

Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Citizens' Climate Lobby Minnesota

Dairyland Power Cooperative

East River Electric

Generation Atomic/Coalition to Lift Nuclear Moratorium

Great River Energy

Heat & Frost Insulators – Local 34

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49

Iron Workers #512

LIUNA

MN Building & Construction Trades Council

MN Conservative Energy Forum

MN Contractors of NECA

MN Chamber of Commerce

MN Farm Bureau

MN Grocers Association

MN Land & Liberty Coalition

MN Municipal Utility Association

MN Mechanical Contractors Association

MN Pipe Trades Association

MN Private Business Council

MN Rural Electric Association

MN Utility Investors

Missouri River Energy Services

Otter Tail Power Co.

Southern MN Municipal Power Agency