



Generation Atomic
1878 Pascal Street
Falcon Heights, MN 55113

April 29, 2026

Dear Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of Generation Atomic, a Minnesota environmental nonprofit and founding member of the Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance, to urge your support for SF4504, the Senate Energy Omnibus bill.

Minnesota promised 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040. Fourteen years. Major coal units are already scheduled for retirement, and the carbon-free generation that replaces them will define whether we meet that commitment or fall short. SF4504 invests across the portfolio we'll need to get there: green ammonia, geothermal, anaerobic digestion, preweatherization, hydrogen, biomass, microgrids. These are the right bets for a state serious about decarbonization.

The bill also includes a modest but meaningful provision: an advanced nuclear energy study, representing roughly 1% of the Renewable Development Account allocation. Prairie Island and Monticello already produce about half of Minnesota's carbon-free power, running around the clock regardless of weather. Without a plan for expanding that kind of clean, firm generation, the pressure to backfill retiring coal with natural gas grows. We've seen utilities propose exactly that. This study would give policymakers the localized data they need to evaluate next-generation nuclear as part of Minnesota's clean energy portfolio in the 2027 session, before we lock in fossil infrastructure we'll regret.

The study was developed with input from the Prairie Island Indian Community, centering tribal sovereignty and host community consent from the start. Support is broad: Citizens' Climate Lobby Minnesota, the Chamber of Commerce, Clean Energy Economy Minnesota, Fresh Energy, the Prairie Island Indian Community, and scores of counties and electric co-ops all back it.

Illinois has already lifted its moratorium entirely. New Jersey followed with a unanimous vote. California just advanced a nuclear study bill out of committee without a single no vote. Federal clean energy investment in advanced nuclear is accelerating. A 1% investment in studying whether Minnesota should compete for those dollars seems more than reasonable.

Please support SF4504 before this session ends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Meyer", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Eric Meyer
Executive Director
Generation Atomic

Minnesota bans new nuclear over spent fuel storage concerns — but climate change won't wait.



Six states (NJ, IL, WV, KY, WI, and MT) have already lifted similar restrictions. A renewables-only path means slower progress and fewer union jobs.

We believe it's time for Minnesota to lift its nuclear moratorium.

However, we also support a study that makes meaningful progress toward that goal and can set us up for future success.

Nuclear energy provides the highest-paying and most numerous jobs to local communities

Figure 14: Nuclear provides high paying jobs and the most jobs on site per GW^{49,50}

Generation type	Permanent jobs on site, jobs/GW	Industry wage median, \$/hour	Benefits concentrated in local community?
Nuclear	237 ~500	\$56	✓
Coal	107	\$49	✓
Natural gas	~30	\$49	✓
Wind	80	\$37	✗
Solar	~36	\$34	✗

Note 237 jobs is an estimate for SMRs; ~500 represents the current operating fleet of large reactors; coal and natural gas are both the value of "Fossil Fuel Electric Power Generation;" when they were measured separately in the 2020 USEER Wage Report, they were within ~5% of each other; hydropower onsite jobs per GW not available, but industry median wage was \$51/hour

Nuclear Energy Requires Less Mining

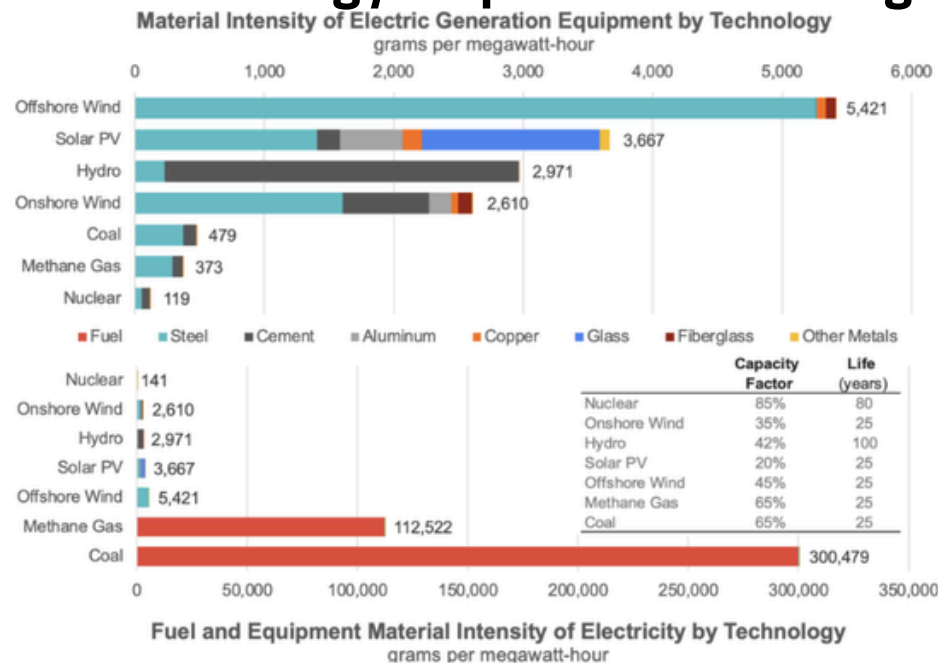
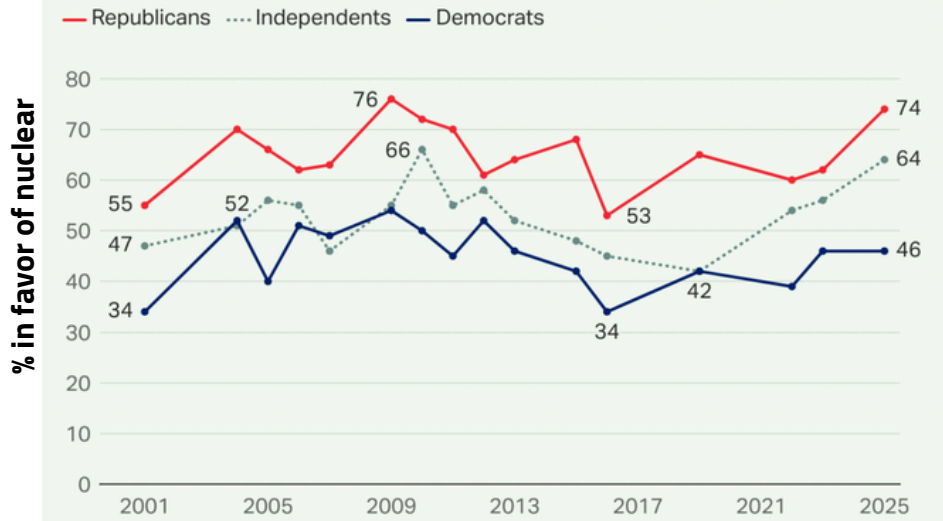


Chart by Isuru Seneviratne based on How much coal/gas/oil matches the energy of a single nuclear fuel pellet? (Touran, 2023). Future demand for electricity generation materials under different climate mitigation scenarios (Wang et al., 2023), capacity factors, lifetimes, and a uranium enrichment multiplier

SUPPORT FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY HAS GROWN AMONG ALL AMERICANS

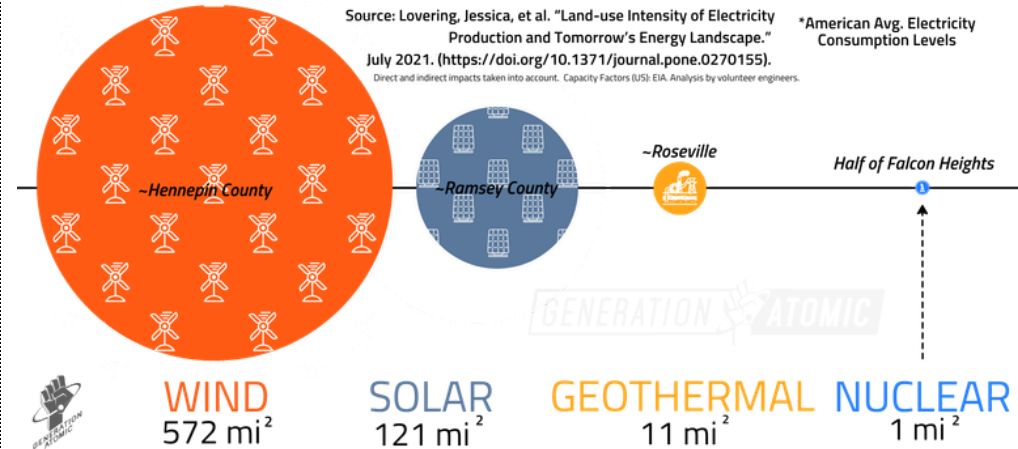
Question: Overall, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity for the U.S.?



Source: Gallup 2025: Americans Opinion of Nuclear Opinion by Party Identification

HOW MUCH LAND DOES IT TAKE TO POWER A CITY OF 1 MILLION*?

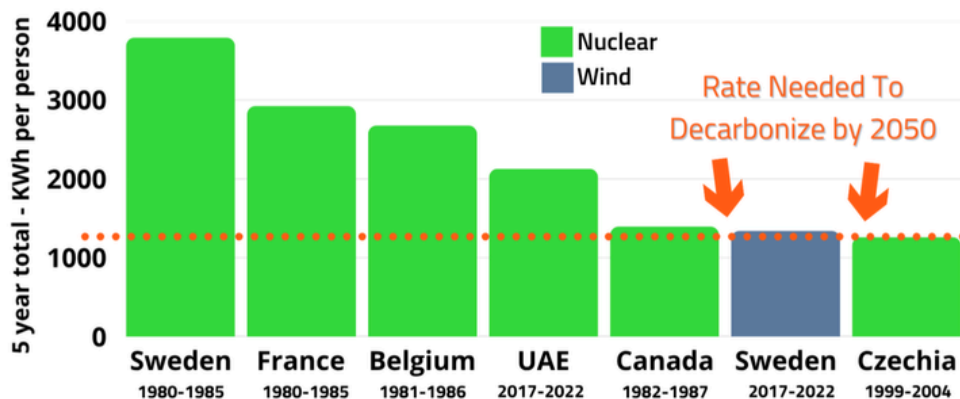
Source: Lovering, Jessica, et al. "Land-use Intensity of Electricity Production and Tomorrow's Energy Landscape." July 2021. (<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0270155>).
*American Avg. Electricity Consumption Levels
Direct and indirect impacts taken into account. Capacity Factors (US): EIA. Analysis by volunteer engineers.



Nuclear energy uses less land, which spares more land for farming, housing, and habitat.

We've only ever added clean energy fast enough a few times in history to meet our current needs.

FASTEST CLEAN ENERGY BUILDS IN HISTORY*



*Countries of more than ten million people, excluding hydro due to geographic constraint.

Sources: EI Statistical Review of World Energy data.
Assuming 90% of existing generation is retired by 2050, global consumption of 6,700 kwh/person/year, population 9.7m.
Data: <https://bit.ly/energygrowthrate>. Analysis by volunteer engineers.



NUCLEAR FACTS

NUCLEAR ENERGY JOBS PAY \$56/HOUR,
WIND AND SOLAR PAY \$35/HOUR

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS HAVE TRIPLE THE UNIONIZATION RATES OF WIND AND SOLAR INDUSTRIES

COMPONENTS FOR NUCLEAR PLANTS ARE LARGELY MADE DOMESTICALLY. WIND AND SOLAR ARE LARGELY IMPORTED.

NUCLEAR AND RENEWABLES WORKING TOGETHER WILL GIVE US OUR BEST CHANCE AT A JUST AND AFFORDABLE TRANSITION TO CLEAN POWER