



## Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

February 23, 2021

Re: Meeting of the Senate Energy & Utilities Committee

### **Testimony of Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy**

Dear Chair Senjem and members of the Senate Energy & Utilities Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate File 225. MCEA is a nonprofit organization with almost 50 years of experience using law and science to protect Minnesota's environment and the health of its people. MCEA strongly supports our state's current policy of prohibiting a certificate of need issuance for new nuclear power plants, and opposes the abolishment of this policy as proposed in S.F. 225.

We have two nuclear plants already operating in Minnesota for which Xcel is requesting an extension of ten years each. Xcel may find it necessary to operate these plants for a number of additional years to help Minnesota meet its greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets and to reach a carbon free future. However, these two plants will continue to produce large amounts of nuclear waste, adding to the unresolved national problem of no permanent underground storage for these dangerous, toxic materials.

With our current nuclear plants in operation, there is no rationale for building a new nuclear plant in Minnesota. There are no utilities in Minnesota that are proposing to build a new nuclear plant. New nuclear plants are wildly expensive and would burden ratepayers with enormous costs. In the only states that have attempted to build new nuclear plants, none have been successful due to exorbitant cost overruns. According to Forbes, the failed projects "include the V.C. Summer plant in South Carolina, which was scrapped last year because of cost overruns. The Vogtle plant under construction in Georgia has also seen dramatic cost overruns, but [it continues to survive on financial life support](#)." Minnesota should not follow in these states' footsteps.

MCEA urges committee members to uphold Minnesota's current nuclear moratorium policy and oppose SF 225. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Ellen Anderson  
Climate Program Director  
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy