



**February 8, 2023**

Chair Frentz and Members of the Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SF 1171 (Mathews).

The Minnesota Chamber, which represents over 6,300 businesses with over 500,000 employees, believes in the triple goal of affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy. Energy costs are a business input that has generated attention and concern over the past several years as Minnesota's commercial and industrial electric rates have risen at a much faster rate than the national average.

Nuclear power, comprising 24% of our energy mix, plays an important role in Minnesota's energy portfolio. As our state continues its transition towards more renewable sources of energy, nuclear can play a key role as a source of carbon-free baseload power.

Minnesota's businesses depend on reliable, safe, and cost-effective power at competitive prices which is why the Minnesota Chamber supports allowing utilities to increase their use of this critical energy source. Without expanded nuclear generation in Minnesota, our grid's reliability will depend on storage technology that does not currently exist or on the continued use of carbon-based fuel sources.

If there is no appetite to advance a modification or full repeal of the existing nuclear moratorium this session, a study of advanced nuclear technology like the one contained in SF 1171 would provide additional information to allow for legislative consideration of these options early in the 2024 session.

Sincerely,

Brian Cook  
Director, Energy and Elections Policy