

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

As utilities and labor organizations we write to express our support for SF1171, a proposal to require the Department of Commerce to study advanced nuclear energy technology and the potential benefits, costs and impacts on Minnesota.

As Minnesota embarks on an effort to rapidly decarbonize our electricity system, it is important that we are taking a hard look at all available carbon free energy resources. Energy system experts have made clear that as we seek to decarbonize, it is critical that we have available carbon-free, firm, dispatchable resources to complement wind and solar resources. At this juncture it isn't clear which technologies will prove to be the most cost-effective and scalable which is why it is important for the legislature to fund this study in order to better understand if and how advanced nuclear energy can support the state's energy goals.

In addition to generating carbon-free electricity, advanced nuclear energy resources have the potential to support the decarbonization of other sectors, like heavy industry through the production of hydrogen and use of waste heat in the industrial process. As such, advanced nuclear technology may be an important piece of the puzzle for reducing carbon emissions in one of the most challenging sectors to decarbonize.

This legislation does not make any changes to the existing moratorium on the issuance of Certificates of Need for new nuclear facilities. Rather, as noted above, it takes the prudent step of requiring a study of the benefits, costs and impacts of advanced nuclear on Minnesota. This study, once completed, will help inform future legislatures as they continue to advance Minnesota's energy policy and work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining reliability and affordability for ratepayers. In addition to electricity system impacts, the study will also examine potential impacts on local jobs, economic development, and the environment—important components of our energy transition.

Thank you for the consideration and we encourage you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Building & Construction Trades Council
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
Laborers International Union of North American Minnesota & North Dakota
Minnesota Rural Electric Association
Minnesota Power
Great River Energy

