

Johnny Johnson
President

Valentina Mgeni
Secretary



Shelley Buck
Vice President

Michael Childs Jr.
Treasurer

Cody Whitebear
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

February 7, 2023

Senator Andrew Mathews
2233 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Matthews and Members of the Senate Energy Committee:

We write on behalf of the Prairie Island Indian Community regarding S.F. 1178, which would require the Minnesota Department of Commerce to conduct a study on advanced nuclear technologies. As you know from our previous discussions, the Prairie Island Indian Community sits a mere 700 yards from the Prairie Island Nuclear Power plant and its fifty casks of spent nuclear fuel. We are the closest community in the country to a nuclear power plant. Every day, we bear the burden of our nation's failed nuclear waste disposal policy. We want to be clear that the Prairie Island Indian Community does not oppose nuclear power. However, until there is a mechanism in place for the safe storage of nuclear waste, we will not support the construction of new nuclear power and, by extension, the creation of new nuclear waste. While we understand that S.F. 1178 does not authorize the construction of new nuclear assets, we believe the bill does not address a key component of nuclear technology – the production and storage of spent nuclear fuel.

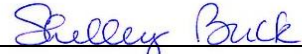
PIIC strenuously advocates for the removal of the nuclear waste that currently is on site at Prairie Island, as well as future waste that is generated from the plant. Our concern is that, if new nuclear energy generation were constructed, Prairie Island could become the de facto storage site for the spent nuclear waste. This would mean that the nuclear waste deposited 700 yards from our community would grow at a much faster rate. In short, we are interested in less nuclear waste next to our community, not more.

We ask you and the committee to bear in mind that there isn't a concrete and workable policy in place to remove the waste. Until that issue is resolved, we strongly urge the legislature take that into account as it debates future energy policy for Minnesota.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.



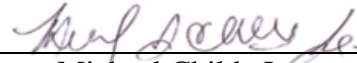
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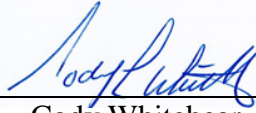
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