



Chair Swedzinski and Members of the Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

As members of the Committee know, nuclear energy has provided a form of safe, reliable and carbon free energy for Minnesotans over 50 years. It has also provided good paying construction and maintenance jobs for our members. With the new 100% by 2040 law it is more important than ever that we repeal the existing moratorium and allow utilities to explore new nuclear energy as an option for meeting our state's climate goals and energy needs.

The electric sector today is poised for growth. With the coming increased electrification of home heating, appliances, and transportation, as well as new manufacturing and data centers there is a growing need for firm, carbon-free electricity generation. A number of recent studies have predicted that our state will move from a summer afternoon peaking system to a winter early morning peaking system—with the peak significantly increasing. This means that peak electricity use will be on cold, early winter mornings when there is no solar and potentially little wind. Without new nuclear, the only available resources to meet these needs will be coal, natural gas units, and existing hydro.

In addition to a strong track record of safety and reliability, Nuclear power also has a strong track record when it comes to meaningful decarbonization. Jurisdictions that have leaned into nuclear energy like France, Sweden and Ontario, Canada, have some of the lowest greenhouse gas emissions of any electricity systems in the world.

We are at a critical and challenging time in our state's energy future. Trying to decarbonize our existing electrical load will be challenging enough, but doing so in the context of increased electrification will make it even harder. Nuclear energy can be an important part of the solution. We thank the committee for taking the opportunity to examine the moratorium and the potential of new nuclear energy to meet our state's energy goals. We thank Chair Mathews for bringing forward this bill and we encourage the committee to support it.

Sincerely,

John Pollard, Political Director, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49

Richard Kolodziejski, Public Affairs Director, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters