



Fresh Energy

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March 26, 2026

The Honorable Chris Swedzinski and Patty Acomb
Energy Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chairs Swedzinski, Acomb, and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on House File 4703.

Fresh Energy supports House File 4703 and encourages members to support its passage during the 2026 legislative session. Advanced nuclear technology is an emerging option for producing electricity without emitting carbon while in operation. Although not yet demonstrated on a utility scale, this technology does have significant potential and is worth considering in the bucket of options as we continue the work of eliminating carbon emissions from the electric sector.

While we believe that wind, solar and advanced storage are likely to be the bedrock for meeting Minnesota's new 100% carbon free standard, we also recognize that maintaining reliability and affordability for our energy system is absolutely critical and may require additional technology options for utilities and regulators to consider. Advanced nuclear could be one of those options, and a study such as the one proposed by this legislation would provide useful information to policymakers and other stakeholders as they work toward the critical goal of reliably and affordably decarbonizing electricity generation.

We additionally recommend to the bill author and committee that continued consultation with affected tribal governments be a priority as the bill moves forward.

House File 4703 does not commit Minnesota to any new technology choices in the future, but it does have the potential to provide valuable new insights and information in service to reliably and affordably decarbonizing our electric grid, and we support its passage.

Sincerely,

Brandon Isakson
Managing Director, Industry, Fresh Energy
Isakson@fresh-energy.org

Will Mulhern
Director, Electricity, Fresh Energy
Mulhern@fresh-energy.org

March 26, 2026

Minnesota House

Energy Finance and Policy Committee
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Revisor Code 26-08200 Nuclear Energy Study; Appropriation Letter of Support

Dear Chair Swedzinski and Members of the Committee,

Citizens' Climate Lobby Minnesota (CCL MN) is a non-partisan, non-profit volunteer driven advocacy organization working to advance climate, clean energy and conservation solutions. I write today on behalf of our chapters and thousands of volunteers across Minnesota. In order to reduce pollution at the speed and scale required to protect our health, our neighborhoods and the environment, CCL MN values all low-carbon energy technologies (bioenergy, geothermal, hydropower, nuclear, solar, wind, etc) as solutions. Many experts believe that nuclear energy, a major source of carbon-free electricity in most advanced economies, will continue to play an important role to reduce pollution, and CCL MN respects that expertise.

CCL MN supports the nuclear energy study appropriation bill. There are many reasons to support nuclear energy including ensuring the grid we depend on is clean, affordable, reliable and safe going forward. Nuclear energy can also provide clean heat for the building and industrial sectors where low-carbon energy options are limited. Nuclear energy can keep our neighborhoods clean, healthy and provide good paying jobs years into the future.

We acknowledge and support the need for continued discussions over safety and storage which are included in the study scope. We hope the Minnesota Legislature will remain "nuclear curious" to learn more about recent progress outside of Minnesota and the potential for new nuclear energy in Minnesota to reduce pollution.

"The science is clear: we cannot address climate change without nuclear power. Minnesota's moratorium stands in the way of meaningful climate action and must be repealed if we're serious about protecting future generations." –Dr. James Hanson, noted climate scientist and CCL advisory board member.

Sincerely,
Greg Jason
CCL MN Statewide Team Leader

March 26, 2026

Minnesota House of Representatives
Committee on Energy Finance and Policy
Capitol 123
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 4703 - Nuclear Study Appropriation

Dear Chair Swedzinski, Chair Acomb, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write in support of House File 4703, which directs the Public Utilities Commission to contract with the Great Plains Institute to conduct a comprehensive study on the future of nuclear energy development in Minnesota.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan nonprofit representing the business voice of energy efficiency and advanced energy companies in Minnesota. Our more than 70 member companies employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans and are committed to policies that support reliability, affordability, and economic growth.

As Minnesota works toward its statutory goal of 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040, it is critical that policymakers evaluate all potential carbon-free resources. This includes nuclear technologies alongside other firm, dispatchable resources such as long-duration energy storage and hydrogen to ensure a reliable, affordable, and clean electric system.

HF 4703 appropriately directs a comprehensive study of nuclear energy in Minnesota, including federal licensing, technological advancements, and the potential for small modular reactors. It also evaluates key siting considerations, including water availability, transmission and interconnection, co-location with large energy users, environmental and public health impacts, and community acceptance.

The bill further examines nuclear waste management and the economic impacts to host communities, including jobs, local economic activity, and tax revenue, while also considering implications for public safety and emergency response planning.

At the national and international level, there is growing recognition that nuclear energy may play a role in achieving deep decarbonization. A Minnesota-specific study will provide policymakers and stakeholders with the information needed to make informed decisions about the state's energy future.

We appreciate Representative Igo's leadership and respectfully urge support for House File 4703.

Sincerely,



George Damian
Director of Government Affairs
gdamian@cleanenergyeconomymn.org



Representative Chris Swedzinski
Energy Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

Dear Co-Chair Swedzinski and Members of the Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

Center for Energy and Environment ("CEE") respectfully submits this letter to express our support for HF 4703 that authorizes a study to evaluate the potential costs, benefits, and impacts of advanced nuclear technologies in Minnesota.

Minnesota has ambitious plans to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, greenhouse gas emissions from our electric system. To do so, will require significant changes to our energy systems, including technological advancements to ensure resource adequacy and reliability of our critical energy systems. As such, CEE supports efforts to study and evaluate new technologies and fuels that may help to achieve our state's energy and emissions goals, particularly those fuels and technologies with the potential to be firm, dispatchable energy resources, like advanced nuclear technologies.

Nuclear energy has played an important role in Minnesota's electric system since the early 1970's. Minnesota's nuclear generating units provide emissions-free, reliable, baseload power and hundreds of high-quality jobs. Despite those benefits, the history of our nuclear fleet has been complicated from the beginning as our largest nuclear plant and its growing stock of spent fuel is located on indigenous land, just feet from the Prairie Island Indian Community. Additionally, these large-scale, central nuclear plants can be costly to maintain and produce significant amounts of spent fuel, for which there is no known removal and permanent storage solution.

New advanced nuclear technologies differ significantly from nuclear plants of the past. These technologies are smaller in scale and promise to be more efficient and more cost-effective than older nuclear power plants. Moreover, as we transition to emissions-free energy resources, these technologies could be a source of much-needed firm, dispatchable, emissions-free electricity. Still, it is critical that we study these new technologies fully to ensure that the benefits of new nuclear technologies outweigh the costs, including the costs to communities who might host them, before taking further action.

CEE supports HF 4703. Advanced nuclear technologies should be thoroughly studied and evaluated to understand the potential role they may play in enabling an emissions-free, reliable, and affordable energy system in Minnesota, as well as their environmental, economic, and community impacts. Such a study will provide valuable information to lawmakers, regulators, and utilities, as well as communities who may consider hosting these technologies if they prove promising and appropriate for Minnesota's energy system.

Sincerely,

/s/ Will Nissen
Director of Policy
Center for Energy and Environment



March 26, 2026

Dear Members of the House Energy Finance and Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce represents over 6,300 businesses of all sizes and industries who employ over 500,000 employees across Minnesota. We advocate for public policies to strengthen Minnesota's business climate and to help grow Minnesota's economy.

I write today in support of HF 4703 (Rep. Igo). While the Chamber supports the repeal of the moratorium on new nuclear generation development, this bill represents a step in the right direction.

Nuclear power already plays an important role in Minnesota's energy portfolio and has been safely operating in our state for decades. As our state continues the transition towards achieving its goal of being 100 percent carbon free by 2040, nuclear can play a key role as a source of carbon-free baseload power.

Minnesota's business community depends on reliable, safe and cost-effective power at competitive prices. Energy costs are a significant input for many Minnesota businesses and have 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.

Passing the legislation is moving us in the right direction for developing significant carbon free baseload electric generation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Dwight", is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Dan Dwight
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce



SIERRA CLUB

NORTH STAR CHAPTER

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Saint Paul, MN 55114
612-659-9124
sierraclub.org/minnesota

March 25, 2026

Re: HF 4703

Dear Co-Chairs Swedzinski, Acomb, and Members of the Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the North Star Chapter of Sierra Club in opposition to HF 4703. The North Star Chapter represents 50,000 members and supporters working to help our state's communities flourish through environmental protection. We appreciate the opportunity to explain our opposition to this bill, which would appropriate money for a study evaluating the potential to construct nuclear-powered electric generating facilities in Minnesota.

This bill would be a waste of taxpayer money, both because the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear energy have already been thoroughly studied, but also because no significant change has been identified that would justify a need for a new study.

Minnesota's moratorium, put in place over 30 years ago, still makes eminent good sense. Nuclear continues to pose grave risks, negatively impacts environmental justice communities today, harms water resources, and leaves a toxic legacy that will burden future generations. Despite the passage of more than three decades, reactor safety remains an issue (e.g., Fukushima) and there still is no viable solution to dealing with nuclear waste. Nuclear power is thus a uniquely dangerous energy technology.

In addition, nuclear energy is an environmental justice issue, causing radioactive contamination throughout its life cycle, especially for low income and Indigenous communities living near uranium mines, mills, plants, and waste storage facilities.

Cost has always been a major downside of nuclear, and nuclear's costs continue to increase while clean, renewable energy has become more affordable. The only two nuclear plants completed since the moratorium were way over budget and way late in delivery. [Georgia nuclear rebirth arrives 7 years late, \\$17B over cost | AP News](#). Despite years of talk, none of the promised small modular reactors are in commercial operation, and at least one such SMR predicted its cost per megawatt hour at levels far in excess of renewables. See [Eye-popping new cost estimates released for NuScale small modular reactor | IEEFA](#) (small module reactor in Utah estimated cost at \$89 per megawatt hour, even after billions in subsidies). That Utah

project was cancelled due to the high cost. See: [The collapse of NuScale's project should spell the end for small modular nuclear reactors | Utility Dive](#)

Dollars could be used much more effectively by investing in wind, solar, storage, energy efficiency and grid modernization, all of which would create many more jobs per dollar invested. Subsidies for nuclear divert needed investment from clean, renewable energy and from the further development of new clean technologies.

We are also concerned about impacts on Minnesota's unique water resources and the communities that depend on them. Cooling at nuclear plants requires significant amounts of groundwater.

Much better solutions exist for our power needs. Every dollar spent on nuclear is one less dollar that can be spent on truly safe, affordable and renewable energy sources.

Accordingly, we urge you to vote no on HF 4703. Instead, we urge you to stay Minnesota's course and commitment to truly clean and truly renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Margaret Levin
State Director
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Minnesota House Energy Finance and Policy Committee
Nuclear Energy Institute
Public Support of HF 4703
March 26, 2026

Co-Chair Swedzinski, Co-Chair Acomb, and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this statement on behalf of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) for the record in support of House File 4703.

NEI is the national trade organization for the nuclear technologies industry. Our more than 350 members include electric utilities, reactor designers, fuel cycle companies, suppliers, universities, national laboratories, labor organizations, and other stakeholders across the United States and around the world.

NEI applauds Minnesota's consideration of House File 4703, which directs the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a study evaluating the future construction of nuclear facilities in Minnesota. This study would allow Minnesota to gather information and examine how new nuclear development could fit into the state's long-term energy planning.

Benefits of Nuclear Energy

Nuclear energy is the single largest carbon-free electric generating source in the United States and globally. Nuclear plants operating in economically sustainable electricity markets can expect to safely and reliably produce clean electricity for up to 80 years. In the U.S., our 94 nuclear reactors produced about half of all carbon-free energy.

The economic benefits are also substantial. A study by Oxford Economics found that the U.S. nuclear industry supports more than 250,000 jobs nationwide and contributes approximately \$64 billion annually to the national economy. Here in Minnesota, the state's three reactors, operated by Xcel Energy, generate over 20 percent of total in-state electricity and more than 40 percent of Wisconsin's carbon-free electricity. These facilities anchor local economies, provide over 1,000 highly skilled, good-paying jobs, and support robust tax bases and community services.

Growing Energy Demand and Advanced Reactors

Minnesota's energy system is changing rapidly. Electricity demand is rising rapidly due to economic growth, manufacturing expansion, data centers, electrification, and the deployment of new technologies requiring access to clean, firm, around-the-clock energy. Advanced nuclear technologies are uniquely positioned to meet these needs. In addition to producing electricity, advanced reactors can supply high-temperature process heat for industrial applications.

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Advanced nuclear technologies now under development by U.S. companies are designed to offer enhanced safety features, flexible sizing, and improved construction approaches compared to earlier generations of nuclear technology. These systems are designed to complement renewable energy resources by providing firm, emissions-free power that supports grid stability and resilience.

Ensuring that state energy policies are in place that enable commercial deployment of advanced reactors by the early 2030s is essential to ensuring an affordable, secure, and resilient energy sector well into the future.

State Support for New and Existing Nuclear

States across the country are increasingly recognizing the value of nuclear energy. In 2025, 45 states took legislative or regulatory action to support nuclear power. More than 25 states have created task forces, commissions, or working groups to study nuclear's role in their energy futures.

States are also incorporating nuclear energy into clean energy standards, repealing long-standing barriers to new nuclear construction, and supporting existing facilities and supply chains through financial incentives, regional partnerships, and manufacturing investments. In recent years, five states have fully repealed prohibitions on new nuclear development. This legislative session alone, more than 200 nuclear-related bills have been introduced in state legislatures nationwide.

House File 4703 reflects this broader momentum and positions Minnesota to make informed decisions about its energy future.

Closing

On behalf of NEI and our members, I thank you for your leadership and consideration of this legislation and your commitment to ensuring Minnesota's energy future is reliable, affordable, and clean.

Kristy Hartman
Senior Director, State Policy & External Affairs
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