



May 12, 2022

Dear Members of the Jobs, Energy, and Commerce Conference Committee,

On behalf of the 70,000 union construction professionals in the state of Minnesota and their families we write to express our support for the provisions in SF4091 which remove the nuclear moratorium and direct the Department of Commerce to conduct a study of the potential for advanced nuclear power generation in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council represents unionized workers across all crafts within the construction industry. As such, our members perform construction, maintenance, and operations work on a wide array of energy infrastructure, including wind, solar, coal, natural gas, and nuclear. This includes work at the Monticello and Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plants, where our members perform work that helps ensure those facilities can be run efficiently and safely.

Nuclear power generation has a critical part to play as Minnesota seeks to decarbonize its electric system. As a carbon-free source of baseload power, nuclear power can help ensure that our electricity system is reliable and affordable as we bring more renewable energy resources on to the grid. Additionally, nuclear power has the potential to be used to generate green hydrogen which will help facilitate the decarbonization of our buildings and industrial sector.

In the coming years, advanced nuclear energy technology has the potential to provide further opportunities for decarbonization while preserving and creating good-paying jobs for our members. However, with the current nuclear moratorium in place, Minnesota faces the possibility of being left behind.

The two provisions removing the nuclear moratorium and directing the Department of Commerce to study advanced nuclear power generation represent concrete steps the legislature could take to ensure that Minnesota is able to take full advantage of all available technologies as we seek to decarbonize our energy system while maintaining reliability and affordability for consumers and good paying jobs for workers.

Sincerely,

Tom Dicklich
Executive Director