



North Dakota House of Representatives

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COMMITTEES:
Appropriations

March 23, 2023

Chair Dale Patten and Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
North Dakota State Capitol – Peace Garden Room
HCR 3034 – LM Study, Sustainable Energy Policies and Advanced Nuclear Feasibility

Chairman Patten and Members of the Senate ENR Committee –

North Dakota is undeniably a leading energy producer within the United States. We're blessed with abundant resources. We've created a responsible, stable regulatory environment that makes North Dakota an attractive location for energy research and development.

Most importantly, we have adopted an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy. And we are perpetually evaluating technology, improving legacy infrastructure, and laying the groundwork for future generational investments.

HCR 3034 is a legislative management study that builds upon our past work.

With an emphasis in maximizing the use of legacy energy production, this study is designed to bring public and private stakeholders to the table – including state agencies, researchers, energy experts, utilities, community and business leaders, policy makers, and members of the public.

What would be studied? In addition to energy demand projections and market trends, the study would include (but would not be limited to):

- Developments in advanced nuclear energy technology, including differences between legacy nuclear energy facilities (what most of us imagine today) and advanced nuclear reactors beginning to emerge at scale;
- Aging analysis and capital investment needs of existing power facilities;
- Transmission line locations, capacity, and siting for new, baseload power facilities;
- Economic incentives and viability for advanced nuclear related research and development;
- Access to nuclear energy fuel sources, including feasibility of mining and enriching uranium deposits within North Dakota;
- Assessment of necessary ancillary investments, including infrastructure and workforce development;
- Evaluation of health and safety impacts, including waste transmission and storage

Most people fail to recognize the complexities surrounding energy development and transmission. Small actions today are critical as we prepare for generational investments made in 10, 20, or 30 years.

Numerous other states are taking similar steps and exploring advanced nuclear energy development, understanding nuclear energy generators range in scale from <20MW to 300-1000MW. South Dakota adopted a similar study with the passage of SCR 601 of February 7, 2023. It is expected to be selected as part of their interim study portfolio as early as March 27, 2023.

Utility and nuclear energy experts are testifying after me.

If you are like me, you have more questions than can be answered in a single hearing. **And that is great!** Ask as many as you can while thinking about who else should be part of this conversation. Our natural curiosity is precisely the reason why HCR 3034 is a timely and fitting addition to our 2023-25 interim study catalogue.

I strongly encourage we give HCR 3034 a do pass recommendation. Thank you.



2023 South Dakota Legislature
Senate Concurrent Resolution 601
ENROLLED

AN ACT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Encouraging the Executive Board of the Legislature to authorize and form an interim legislative committee on nuclear power in South Dakota.

WHEREAS, nuclear power is a source of energy that protects air quality by producing carbon-free electricity and is therefore one of the cleanest energy sources available; and

WHEREAS, the nuclear power industry supports many jobs throughout the United States and contributes locally and nationally to the economy; and

WHEREAS, nuclear power plants operate safely and at a higher capacity than renewable energy sources and fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, there are no nuclear power plants located in South Dakota but the state relies on nuclear power produced in Minnesota:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council consider establishing an interim legislative committee to examine the potential use of nuclear power in South Dakota, to include a nuclear power plant, for the establishment of a safe, clean, and reliable source of energy for South Dakota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this legislative study is recommended to be under the supervision of the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council, staffed and funded as an interim legislative committee, and that the interim legislative committee report to the Legislature and the Governor before the beginning of the Ninety-Ninth Legislative Session. The report may include draft legislation; policy recommendations; an abbreviated summary of state and federal legislation on nuclear power; information on nuclear power structure, design, and operation; relevant stakeholder information; and citizen feedback.

Adopted by the Senate,
Concurred in by the House of Representatives,

January 30, 2023
February 7, 2023

Larry Rhoden
President of the Senate

Kay Johnson
Secretary of the Senate

Hugh Bartels
Speaker of the House

Patricia Miller
Chief Clerk