



300 16<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Minot, ND 58701

March 6, 2025

Chairman Dale Patten  
Members of Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

North Dakota State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

**RE: HB 1025**

Chairman Patten, Members of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Beth Feldner, and I am here today representing Xcel Energy, the only investor-owned utility operating in North Dakota with nuclear generation in our resource mix. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony supporting HB 1025, which establishes a public-private interim study to evaluate the feasibility of siting and deploying advanced nuclear power in North Dakota.

For more than 116 years, Xcel Energy has been proud to be the trusted energy provider for residential and commercial customers in North Dakota. We continue to invest strategically to support our economy, build and maintain energy infrastructure, and deliver safe, reliable, and service.

As North Dakota continues to lead in energy production and innovation, this study is critical in ensuring that the state remains at the forefront of energy security and reliability. Xcel Energy has over five decades of experience safely operating nuclear generation, and we understand firsthand the value of always-available baseload power. This study will allow North Dakota to assess whether advanced nuclear technology can complement the state's robust energy resources while leveraging existing infrastructure and workforce expertise.

Importantly, this effort is not just about technology—it is about people. The successful integration of any new energy source requires public understanding and acceptance. The study outlined in HB 1025 will provide the necessary education, data, and engagement to ensure that North Dakotans have a voice in determining their energy future.

Xcel Energy is committed to supporting policymakers as they explore the role nuclear could play in North Dakota. Last summer, we hosted North Dakota legislators for an in-depth discussion on our resource planning, followed by a tour of one of our nuclear facilities. This firsthand experience allowed lawmakers to see the safety, reliability, and potential of nuclear energy up close. Given the strong interest in continuing these conversations, we intend to offer this opportunity again this summer for any legislators who wish to learn more.



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The public-private partnership structure of this study is another key benefit. With state leadership actively guiding this process, North Dakota—not external interests—will lead the conversation on whether advanced nuclear fits within the state’s energy strategy, economic development goals, and community values. Private industry, including companies like Xcel Energy, brings essential technical expertise and real-world insights, ensuring that any analysis is grounded in practical considerations.

HB 1025 is not a commitment to nuclear generation today but rather a necessary step toward making an informed decision about North Dakota’s long-term energy future. Without this study, the state risks missing out on a reliable generation option that could enhance grid reliability, create high-quality jobs, and sustain North Dakota’s leadership in energy innovation.

Xcel Energy welcomes the opportunity to contribute our experience to this discussion. We support HB 1025 and urge the committee to advance this bill, ensuring that North Dakota has the information needed to make sound energy policy decisions for the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.