

February 6, 2023

RE: Support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 601

South Dakota Executive Board

Dear Members of the South Dakota Executive Board:

On behalf of Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) and our 61 member municipal electric utilities located in South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and North Dakota; we support the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 601 (SCR 601), and urge the Executive Board to fund and establish an interim committee to study the development of nuclear power in South Dakota.

As you may know, Minnesota recently passed a 100 percent carbon-free by 2040 mandate on all utilities serving customers in Minnesota. This mandate includes MRES. Additionally, it is expected that the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will come out with rules this year that will further mandate carbon dioxide reductions or otherwise regulate fossil-fuel plants. This is occurring at time when utilities are concerned about having sufficient dispatchable resources to meet the needs of the regional transmission grid and the needs of their customers. As utilities look to both satisfy mandates for carbon-free power and fulfill the need for dispatchable resources, nuclear power could assist utilities in keeping the lights on. Therefore, we support the funding of an interim study and subsequent legislative report on the possibility of nuclear power development in South Dakota.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Heller, PE MBA  
President and Chief Executive Officer