

Co-sponsorship Memorandum

To: All Legislators

From: Representatives Shae Sortwell, David Steffen, and Robert Wittke

Senator Julian Bradley

Date: February 17, 2025

Re: Co-Sponsorship of LRB 1212/1: Conducting a nuclear power siting study and an expedited nuclear facility approval process

DEADLINE: February 27, 2025 AT 4PM

Wisconsin must be prepared to meet soaring energy demands that will be driven by the development of data centers and other energy-intensive economic development. Nuclear power, especially next-generation reactors, will be a viable, carbon-free, domestically sourced option to meet those demands. Laying the groundwork for nuclear energy investments and options today will bolster the safe, reliable, and affordable energy of tomorrow.

Under this proposal, the Public Service Commission (PSC) will conduct (or contract) a nuclear power siting study. The study will:

- Identify nuclear power generation opportunities on both existing nuclear and non-nuclear power generation sites
- Identify new nuclear power and fusion energy generation sites that aren't currently dedicated to power generation
- Identify sites for the development of nuclear fission and fusion technologies

- Develop guidance for advanced nuclear fission and fusion reactors (including small modular reactors and fusion technologies)

In conjunction with this siting study, this proposal also requires the PSC to adopt an expedited nuclear facility approval process via a 150-day application period for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for facilities with an advanced nuclear reactor, rather than the standard 180-application period.

A nuclear siting study coupled with a streamlined state-level approval process will strengthen Wisconsin's ability to meet the inevitable growth in energy demands. Please join us in taking this exciting next step in Wisconsin's nuclear energy journey.

If you would like to be added as a co-sponsor to this bill, please reply to this email or contact Rep. Sortwell's office (9102) or Sen. Bradley's office (6-5400).

Analysis by Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Public Service Commission to conduct a nuclear power siting study and to submit a report to the legislature containing the results of the study no later than 12 months after the bill takes effect. The study must satisfy certain requirements specified in the bill.

The bill also requires PSC to take final action on an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for a large electric generating facility that contains an advanced nuclear reactor within 150 days after the application is complete, unless the chairperson of PSC extends the time period for no more than an additional 150 days for good cause. Under current law, a person seeking to construct a large electric generating facility must obtain a CPCN from PSC.