

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**POWERFUL COALITION AIMS TO SECURE MINNESOTA'S ENERGY,
ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC FUTURE**

***Sensible Energy Solutions for Minnesota (SESM) Pushing for Repeal of State's
Moratorium on Constructing Nuclear Energy Facilities***

(Saint Paul, Minn.) – Sensible Energy Solutions for Minnesota (SESM), a newly formed non-profit group advocating repeal of the state's moratorium on constructing nuclear energy facilities, today named a distinguished, bipartisan group of labor, business and environmental leaders to its board of advisors. Organizers recently filed paperwork with the Minnesota Secretary of State and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to operate as a 501(c)(4) non-profit.

The broad-based coalition underscored the safe, clean and reliable nature of nuclear energy, coupled with its indisputable job-creating potential, as key reasons for repeal. In calling on the state legislature to reverse the moratorium, SESM also pointed out that President Obama, Senator Klobuchar, Governor Pawlenty and many other key leaders consider nuclear energy to be an important part of the solution in addressing global climate change and reducing our reliance on foreign oil.

“While states from South Carolina to Maryland are looking forward and considering 21st century designs and other new nuclear power technologies, Minnesota is marching steadily toward a shortage of base-load electricity,” said Minnesota Chamber of Commerce President and SESM Board Member David Olson. “As we look ahead, we must put nuclear power – the most sensible and carbon-free base-load electricity source in existence – back on the table as an energy option.”

“Currently, there are more than twenty applications with the Department of Energy for construction of nuclear power plants in the United States,” said Minnesota Pipe Trades Association President and SESM Board Member Carl Crimmins. “These plants would supply carbon-free, low-cost, base-load power for the energy grid, as well as offer good-paying jobs during the construction phase and during day-to-day operations. Each plant would stimulate the local economy and spur economic growth around the plant in supporting workers, their families, the state and local municipalities.”

A November 2008 national public opinion survey by Bisconti Research, Inc. found that 69 percent of Americans believe the U.S. should build more nuclear power plants. An unscientific poll taken at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair found that more than 60 percent of respondents believe the state's ban on new nuclear power facilities should be lifted.

“SESM's mission is simple: ‘To help secure Minnesota's energy, environmental and economic future by urging repeal of the antiquated moratorium on constructing nuclear power facilities within the state,’” said Scott Melbye, president of Cameco, Inc. and SESM board member. “As the diversity of our board shows, this issue transcends traditional political divides. It is not merely a Democratic issue or a Republican issue. It's a Minnesota issue.”

SESM Board of Advisors:

- Carl Crimmins, president, Minnesota Pipe Trades Association, Saint Paul, Minn.
- Cynthia “Cyndi” Leshner, retired president and CEO, Northern States Power Company
- Harry Melander, executive secretary, Saint Paul Building & Construction Trades Council
- Scott Melbye, president, Cameco, Inc.
- David Olson, president, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- Richard J. Vetter, Ph.D., Professor of Biophysics
- Dr. Don McMillan, president, Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance
- Dan Puhl, CPA

Leshner said, “Nuclear power is a safe, proven technology that keeps energy prices competitive, while protecting our environment for future generations. This discussion is about good environmental energy policy and considering viable options, not partisan politics. Now is the time to remove hurdles standing between our state and a secure energy future. Now is the time to act.”

McMillan said, “Hunters, Fishermen and other outdoor enthusiasts believe in conserving and protecting our wildlife and environment. We also believe that nuclear energy is the most environmentally friendly source of energy on this planet. We encourage the Minnesota Legislature to lift the moratorium on building nuclear energy plants in Minnesota to help save and conserve our environment.”

Vetter said, “Nuclear power does not produce carbon dioxide emissions, a key greenhouse gas tied to global warming. In addition, nuclear power is one of the world’s safest sources of energy, and it doesn’t produce mercury emissions, another harmful pollutant. Nuclear power needs to be included in our future armamentarium of energy sources. This requires Minnesota to overturn the moratorium on nuclear power plant construction, which currently hinders our utilities from developing options that don’t contribute to global warming.”

SESM expects to ramp up in the months leading up to the 2010 state legislative session, conducting an aggressive grassroots campaign to push for the moratorium’s repeal. Minnesotans interested in getting involved are encouraged to visit SESM online, www.EnergySolutionsMN.org. SESM is also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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