

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 469

Introduced by Natural Resources Committee: Bostelman, 23, Chairperson; Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Fredrickson, 20; Hughes, 24; Jacobson, 42; Moser, 22; Slama, 1.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine existing, new, and emerging technologies in the nuclear energy industry.

Many electric utilities are setting carbon reduction goals as well as setting zero net carbon policies. However, the demand for electricity continues to rise as different sectors of the economy move away from traditional fossil fuel resources to reduce emissions. This is most evident in the transportation and agriculture sectors.

Residential, business, and commercial electric utility customers demand a reliable electric energy resource available twenty-four hours per day and three hundred sixty-five days per year. Increased demand for electricity comes while traditional fossil fuel generation resources are being prematurely shut down to meet reduced carbon goals. Loss of baseload resources without comparable replacements puts electric utility consumers at risk. To meet the continuing demand for reliable electricity, zero-carbon baseload generating resources, such as nuclear energy, will be needed to ensure that utilities may meet carbon goals and continue to supply reliable electricity to consumers.

Emerging and new nuclear energy generation technologies and research are changing the way electricity is generated using nuclear energy, making the generation safer and more efficient. The utilization of existing and new advanced nuclear energy technologies also allows spent nuclear energy fuel to be managed as an asset. Education about these technologies is an important part of the process of understanding the role that nuclear energy can play in a low-carbon future.

For purposes of this study, the committee shall hold informational

hearings inviting key nuclear energy industry companies and support business to provide education and details on existing, new, and emerging technologies in the nuclear energy industry. The committee shall also prepare a report outlining resources that could be used as educational tools about nuclear energy for policy makers, businesses, and members of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.