

April 28, 2021



The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael Simpson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

As you prepare your FY2022 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, we encourage you to include robust funding for the Department of Energy’s advanced nuclear energy programs. In particular, we urge you to include the highest possible funding levels for the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program, which seeks to demonstrate multiple next generation nuclear reactor designs, and the Advanced Nuclear Fuel Availability Program, which would provide the high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) required by most of these designs.

President Biden has prioritized addressing climate change and accelerating economic recovery. Demonstrating and deploying the next generation of safe, emissions-free nuclear reactors must play a critical role in both efforts.

Advanced reactors, which include new light water and non-light water reactor technologies, offer a wide range of new designs and features, including innovative coolants and fuels that allow for even lower-risk and higher-efficiency operation; passive safety features that can make reactors walk-away safe; and smaller sizes that reduce costs and increase flexibility. Reliable and dispatchable electricity from advanced reactors can provide a necessary complement to clean but variable power from wind and solar.

Today, our nation’s existing nuclear plants provide safe, clean, reliable electricity and are economic engines for their communities. Building and operating the next generation of reactors in the United States will create thousands of new high-paying union jobs and provide safe, reliable, emissions-free electricity that is available year-round for decades to come. Importantly, developing these reactors in the United States will allow for the export of reactor and fuel technologies to help reduce the 85 percent of greenhouse gas emissions that originate from countries other than the United States.

In the Energy Act of 2020, Congress authorized a number of important programs to accelerate the commercialization of advanced reactors, including the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program and Advanced Nuclear Fuel Availability Program. The Energy Act’s programs were enacted with broad bipartisan support in the House and Senate, and with the support of the undersigned environmental non-governmental organizations, labor unions, and business groups.

We ask that your bill include strong funding for these popular and effective programs.

Sincerely,

American Nuclear Society
ARC Clean Energy LLC
Bipartisan Policy Center Action (BPC Action)
BWXT Technologies, Inc.
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
Centrus Energy Corp.
Clean Air Task Force

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ClearPath Action
Climate Coalition
Edison Electric Institute
Energy Impact Center
Energy Northwest
Framatome Inc.
GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy
General Atomics
Generation Atomic
Holtec Government Services
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
Lightbridge Corporation
The Nature Conservancy
Nuclear Energy Institute
Nuclear Innovation Alliance
Nucleation Capital
Orano USA
TerraPower
TerraPraxis
Third Way
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute
U.S. Nuclear Industry Council
Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium
Westinghouse Electric Company
X-Energy, LLC