

March 9, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper,

I write on behalf of the over 11,000 men and women of the American Nuclear Society to express our support for S. 512, the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the U.S. and the world will need to significantly expand nuclear generating capacity in the coming decades to address growing energy demands through a diverse and reliable electricity generation infrastructure which reduces emissions of greenhouse gases.

Expanded federal engagement in advanced, non-light-water nuclear research and development is critical to achieving these overall objectives. The Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act would assist the development of advanced nuclear reactor technologies by modernizing the licensing regime to support private investment in advanced reactor technologies.

Historically, the U.S. has led the world in developing new reactor technology. However, several other nations, including Russia and China, have moved aggressively to develop innovative Generation IV reactors which offer distinct advantages over current designs.

The U.S. must recommit itself to improving its advanced reactor technology portfolio in order to ensure future access to abundant clean energy and to maintain its influence over global nuclear safety and nonproliferation norms. This legislation, if enacted, would provide much-needed support toward those objectives.

Sincerely,



Andrew Klein
President
American Nuclear Society

CC: Senator Jim Inhofe
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
Senator Mike Crapo
Senator Cory A. Booker
Senator Deb Fischer
Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Senator Joe Manchin