

September 6, 2018

Chairman Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

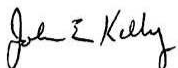
I write on behalf of the over 11,000 men and women of the American Nuclear Society to express our support for recently-introduced Nuclear Energy Leadership Act (NELA) and respectfully request that this bill be reviewed and passed by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee as quickly as possible.

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. NELA would assist the development of advanced nuclear reactor technologies through a variety of pathways, including adjusting power purchase agreements to make these contracts more accessible to capital intensive projects like nuclear plants; requiring the Department of Energy to set aggressive goals for advanced reactor commercialization and develop a strategic R&D plan to help achieve those goals with private sector partners; enabling the construction of high-priority testing facilities and capabilities; creating an interim source of specialized fuels required by many reactor technologies; and providing education and training through the Integrated University Program to help meet a variety of unique workforce needs.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Kelly".

John Kelly
American Nuclear Society
President