

March 23, 2015

Honorable Lamar Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Science, Space & Technology  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science, Space & Technology  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Johnson:

I write on behalf of the 11,000 members of the American Nuclear Society to express our support for H.R. 1158, the Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2015.

We appreciate your efforts to harness the intellectual assets of our national laboratories through broader technology commercialization and public-private partnership initiatives. We are especially grateful for Section 104 which directs the Department of Energy to assess its ability to “incubate” privately-funded advanced research and test reactor prototypes at national laboratories.

ANS strongly supports expanded federal engagement in advanced, non-light water nuclear research and development. It is becoming increasingly clear that the U.S. and the world will need to significantly expand its nuclear generating capacity in the coming decades to address growing energy demands while reducing harmful emissions.

Historically, the U.S. led the world in developing new reactor technology. However, several other nations, including Russia and China, have moved aggressively to develop so-called Generation IV reactors which offer distinct advantages over their light water counterparts. As such, the U.S. must recommit itself to improving its advanced reactor technology portfolio in order to maintain its influence over global nuclear safety and nonproliferation norms. This legislation, if enacted, would provide needed support toward that objective.

Sincerely



President

American Nuclear Society