



NUCLEAR ENGINEERING  
AND RADIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY of MICHIGAN

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May 10, 2016

The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
205 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Boxer:

I am writing to you to offer my strong support for the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (S 2795), in my capacity as Department Chair of the Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences Department at the University of Michigan.

There is a crucial need for the United States to develop carbon-free, baseload electricity from advanced nuclear reactors to power the US economy. Nuclear power currently provides the vast majority of carbon-free electricity in the USA and will continue this role for the foreseeable future.

While the USA currently leads the world in nuclear power generation and research, this advantage is being seriously and rapidly eroded by China, with their huge investments in conventional and advanced reactor science and technology.

The legislation in the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (S 2795) will enable the licensing of advanced nuclear reactor designs by directing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to develop the necessary regulatory framework. The new NRC regulatory framework will ensure the safety of the new generations of innovative nuclear reactor designs.

I appreciate your sponsorship of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Gilgenbach