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April 25, 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 as the Department Head of Nuclear Science & Engineering at MIT to provide my strongest possible support for the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (S 2795). This legislation will be critical for maintaining current U.S. nuclear reactors and to assure U.S. leadership in the development and deployment of advanced nuclear energy.

Like many of my colleagues, I am concerned about the sustainability of the present fleet of nuclear power plants. Nuclear energy is immediately critical to generating clean, reliable baseload electricity and we need measures to assure that, in the near-term, these reactors remain in the U.S. energy portfolio.

It is also vital that the U.S. maintain its leadership in the worldwide competition to design and produce advanced nuclear technology. As the world turns toward cleaner energy technologies, this leadership has the potential to provide significant economic and security advantages to the U.S.

I firmly believe the scientific and technological pieces are in place to assure that advanced nuclear energy meets the economic, societal and proliferation requirements of our modern world and that the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act will provide the regulator structure needed to realize this potential.

Sincerely,



Dennis Whyte

NSE

**Nuclear Science
and Engineering**

science : systems : society



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