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May 20, 2016

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman, Senate Committee on
Environment & Public Works
Dirksen Building, Room 410
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senator
Hart Building, Room 141
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator
Hart Building, Room 530
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
United States Senator
Dirksen Building, Room 239
Washington DC 20510

Re: Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (S. 2795)

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Senators Booker, Whitehouse, and Crapo:

On behalf of Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., and our workforce of over 4,000 men and women, I am writing to express appreciation for your efforts, and that of your talented staff, on the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA). This bipartisan legislation supports progress on advanced nuclear reactors through technology-inclusive, risk-informed, and performance-based licensing processes, promotes fiscal transparency and discipline at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and improves the NRC regulatory framework, while continuing to prioritize the safe operation of our nation's nuclear fleet. As such, NEIMA is among the most significant pieces of bipartisan nuclear energy legislation in over a decade.

Headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, Southern Nuclear is a subsidiary of Southern Company, the nation's premier energy company serving the Southeastern United States through its subsidiaries. Southern Company is a leading U.S. producer of clean, safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Southern Nuclear currently operates six nuclear reactors: Units 1 and 2 at Plant Farley near Dothan, Alabama; Units 1 and 2 at Plant Hatch near Baxley, Georgia; and Units 1 and 2 at Plant Vogtle near Augusta, Georgia. We have been in the nuclear power business for almost 50 years, dating back to Southern Company's decision in 1967 to build Plant Hatch, our very first nuclear power plant, which began commercial operation in 1975. Together, Plants Farley, Hatch and Vogtle provide approximately 20% of the electricity used in Alabama and Georgia.

At Southern, we believe nuclear power is—and should remain—a leading source of affordable, reliable, clean, American energy that powers our economy, protects our national security, preserves the environment, provides high-paying jobs for thousands of our fellow citizens, and generates substantial tax revenue for local, state, and federal governments. Nuclear

energy already has tremendous advantages over other forms of electric generation: zero emissions, capacity factors exceeding 90%, safety records that exceed those of other energy sources, as well as affordability over the long term without the price swings common to other fuels.

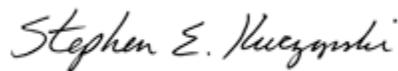
Southern Company is proud to lead the nation in nuclear energy by constructing first of a kind reactors at Plant Vogtle. Taken together, these state-of-the-art Westinghouse AP1000 units are projected to supply over 2,200 megawatts of new, baseload, zero-emission electric generation, creating more than 5,000 total construction jobs and 800 permanent jobs. These are some of the first new nuclear units to be built in the United States in over 30 years.

Even as we move toward commercial deployment of “Generation III+” reactors like the AP1000 at Plant Vogtle, we are already exploring the next generation of nuclear technologies known as Generation IV advanced reactors. This year, the Department of Energy selected a Southern Company-led proposal as one of two recipients of approximately \$6 million for this year (up to \$40 million over the next five years) to explore, develop, and demonstrate advanced nuclear reactor technologies. With non-federal cost-share contributions, this project represents up to \$80 million in new advanced reactor research. Our partners in this public-private partnership are TerraPower, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), the Electric Power Research Institute, and Vanderbilt University. This project will bolster the development of molten chloride fast reactors (MCFR), an advanced concept for nuclear generation under development by TerraPower. In addition to the MCFR, we are also assisting in the development of modern Prismatic Block High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactor (HTGR) technologies, which are expected to be significantly more efficient than current operating reactors.

While Southern Company has not made any commitments toward construction of power plants with MCFR, HTGR, or other advanced reactor technologies, the potential for Gen-IV reactors is promising. We believe these reactors will build on the Gen-III+ advantages, with more safety systems, less byproduct materials, and greater cost efficiencies. The kind of regulatory and licensing framework set forth in NEIMA will be crucial to further progress on advanced reactor research and development as well as commercial deployment.

Congratulations on successfully achieving passage of NEIMA out of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. We are proud to support your legislation.

Sincerely,



Stephen E. Kuczynski

cc: The Honorable Richard Shelby
The Honorable Jeff Sessions
The Honorable Johnny Isakson
The Honorable David Perdue