



April 20, 2016

Senator James Inhofe
Chairman, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Cory Booker
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mike Crapo
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
530 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Senators Booker, Crapo and Whitehouse,

Tri Alpha Energy is a fusion energy science research company headquartered in Foothill Ranch, California. Our purpose is to deliver world-changing clean fusion energy for economical, commercial power generation as fast as possible. Tri Alpha started as a research project at the University of California-Irvine in 1990. Today we have 150 employees, over 350 patents issued and another 600 pending, and are conducting experiments on a state of the art plasma generation device.

We are writing to express support for your bill S. 2795, the *Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act*. You have recognized that fusion energy, along with traditional nuclear fission, present an important new frontier for zero-emission, baseload electricity generation. Global markets and the growing climate crisis demand that new energy technologies be developed, but this can only happen in a favorable policy environment.

S. 2795 would establish an important program for licensing new reactors, including fusion reactors, informed by the potential risks of this design. Tri Alpha agrees that the NRC needs new resources and structures for permitting new nuclear designs, both because the current permitting structure is prohibitively protracted, and because some new reactor concepts being proposed today are so vastly different from incumbent light water fission designs. Tri Alpha's technology concept, for example, presents virtually none of the risks associated with either traditional nuclear or other types of fusion. Our input materials are non-fissilable and environmentally benign, there is zero possibility of meltdown, and the volume and radioactivity of operational waste will be negligible. Providing NRC authority to prioritize relative risk ensures that taxpayer dollars can be used where they are needed. It will be paramount to moving fusion energy out of the laboratory to commercialization.

S. 2795 is also proactive on reducing timelines and providing greater certainty for technology developers during the permitting process. This will not only help bring fusion to market more



quickly, but will also provide greater surety to the private investor community and bring development capital off the sidelines.

We commend you and your staff for recognizing that innovative new technologies, including fusion, need to see a viable regulatory path in the United States. This thoughtful legislation will help move the industry forward. We hope that H.R. 2795 will pass favorably out of Committee and we offer our support to help move the bill to final passage. Please contact me with any questions at rbarth@trialphaenergy.com.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Barth, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President, Government Relations
Tri Alpha Energy