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May 10, 2016

The Honorable Mike Crapo
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Crapo:

On behalf of the University of Idaho, I want to thank you for your work and leadership on the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA). This is a worthy bill for the State of Idaho, the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), University of Idaho (UI) and the nation by facilitating the timely introduction of advance nuclear reactors into the fleet.

The University of Idaho supports NEIMA. Increasing worldwide demand for reliable electricity coupled with the need to minimize carbon dioxide emissions represents some of the great challenges and opportunities of the next several decades. Thanks in part to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; nuclear energy has proven to be an effective source for safe, reliable, low-carbon baseload electricity for the nation. However, the efficient and timely introduction of advance reactors and related technology will benefit from the implementation of risk-informed, performance-based licensing policies as well as the modified licensing fee and grant guidance provided by NEIMA. The University of Idaho through our cutting-edge energy research collaborations with INL – the nation's lead nuclear laboratory and the birthplace for nuclear electrical generation – will benefit from the research and educational opportunities that will arise as a result of a more effective, efficient, and timely licensing process envisioned by NEIMA. As always, the UI stands ready and committed to participate in achieving the advancements in nuclear energy that NEIMA will make possible.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



John K. McIver
Vice President for Research and Economic Development