



8121 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Denver, CO 80230  
423-902-5330

March 6, 2017

Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) Chairman,  
Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Re: S512 Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA)

Dear Honorable Chairman and Ranking Member:

I am writing in support of the timely passage of Senate bill S512. I am a 47 year veteran of the power industry who has been involved in development, design, construction, licensing and operations of multiple generations of nuclear and non-nuclear power plants. This is a very important moment in American history, one where the opportunity to become energy independent, with a well-crafted mix of reliable, secure, carbon free and affordable energy can drive a renewed, reinvigorated economy capable of supporting the needs of American citizens. Nuclear power is an important part of that mix and must remain so for generations to come. Renewables are not a singular answer. The true cost of renewable energy is hidden since backup power, currently in the form of nuclear, natural gas and some coal plants is needed to take up the slack at times wind and solar power are not available. Economic growth and reliable, affordable electricity remain intimately and inextricably tied. Without a new generation of advanced reactors, some envisioned as far back as the Atoms for Peace Program, nuclear energy will wither and die exactly at the time the nation needs it most.

The vision and purpose demonstrated in S512 is essential to have the next generation of nuclear designs ready to fill the gaps caused by retirements of existing generation and to supply the needed new capacity that fuels America's prosperity and security. One key to delivering on time is to make the nuclear regulatory process far more efficient and timely. The first decade of reactors still operating safely and reliably today were designed, licensed and constructed in less than ten years. That should be the goal today. Simpler, safer and more economical reactors are on the drawing boards of small and large companies anxious to fill the energy gap. Yet the single impediment most often heard in boardrooms, financial institutions and energy planning agencies, is can we count on them being delivered in time? To be sure, there are any number of events, natural and man-made that can slow or stop a major project like a nuclear power plant. However, modernizing the regulatory practices and requirements to achieve a predictable, practical and timely end is at the top of the list. This bill recognizes the essential features well. It deserves prompt and bipartisan support for what it can enable if done right. It can open the path to advanced nuclear energy delivery in the early 2030's, just when the country needs it most.

Thank you for your vision and support for this critical legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Wallace".

Edward G. Wallace  
President, GNBC Associates, Inc.  
[ed.wallace@gnbcassociates.com](mailto:ed.wallace@gnbcassociates.com)



8121 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Denver, CO 80230  
423-902-5330

CC: The Honorable Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Jim Inhofe (R-OK), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Deb Fischer (R-NE), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Michael F. Bennet, (D-CO), Cory Gardner (R-CO), Lamar Alexander (R-TN)