

# UNITED STATES NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL

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April 18, 2016

The Honorable James Inhofe, Chairman  
The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Ranking Member  
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Chairman Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety  
The Honorable Thomas R. Carper, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Boxer, Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Carper:

The U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council is writing to commend the Committee's bipartisan support for advanced nuclear energy reactor innovation and development as manifested by the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (S. 2795).

As the leading American business consortium advocate for new nuclear energy and the promotion of the U.S. supply chain globally, we believe that trailblazing the advance of nuclear energy technology including Gen 3+, Small Modular Reactors, Non-Light Water Reactor (LWR) Advanced Reactors and Fusion Reactors is one of the key imperatives for U.S. market competitiveness and is vital to maintaining the U.S. lead in technology innovation, safety enhancements, energy security and carbon reduction.

To this end, we welcome the focus of S. 2795 on supporting the continued use of the current fleet of nuclear reactors and enabling the development of advanced nuclear reactor technologies by enhancing accountability in the NRC's budget and fee programs as well as ensuring that the Commission develops a modern, technology neutral framework that allows for the phased and expedited licensing of advanced reactor technologies. This legislation follows a number of the key recommendations that were included in the *Advanced Reactor White Paper* that NIC issued on February 22, 2016.

We applaud the Committee for quickly moving forward on this legislation and we appreciate the opportunity that we will have to testify on advanced reactors at the upcoming hearing of the Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Please note that while these views represent the consensus of the U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council, they do not necessarily represent the views of individual member companies.

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Again, many thanks for the work of the EPW Committee on this vital legislative measure. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Merrifield", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

The Honorable Jeffrey S. Merrifield (NRC Commissioner 1998-2007)  
Partner, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP  
Chairman, Nuclear Infrastructure Council – Advanced Reactor Task Force

CC: Senator Corey A. Booker  
Senator Mike Crapo  
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse