



Founded 1889

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada

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General Office File Reference: GP

March 13, 2017

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

On behalf of the more than 340,000 members of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, I am writing to strongly support S. 512, the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act. This legislation will help put our country on the path toward meeting U.S. and international goals for pollution reduction by supporting the maintenance and safety of our nation's existing nuclear reactors, as well as supporting deployment of the next generation of advanced reactors. Further, S. 512 seeks to correct the potentially harmful effects of the current Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulatory red tape which risks deterring innovation on advanced nuclear technology. Through passage of this bill, you will be supporting the competitive stance of U.S. industry in the international marketplace while generating good jobs for the American worker.

While technology continues to advance across many industries, the nuclear energy industry is at risk of being left behind due to the effects of uncertainty over the regulatory decisions of the NRC. Investments in nuclear power generation require heavy up-front investments, and therefore benefit greatly from a stable and predictable regulatory environment. If passed, S. 512 would require the NRC to provide a pathway for advanced reactor licensing that would better guarantee their safety and encourage continued investment in innovation. In addition, S. 512 would make the NRC more transparent by reforming fees and easing the cost burden on operating the nation's existing fleet of nuclear plants.

We applaud the introduction of S. 512 and hope that your Committee moves quickly to approve it. The United States government plays a vital role in the future of the advanced nuclear sector and this bill establishes the regulatory certainty the industry needs to succeed. We look forward to continuing to support it as it moves through the House and Senate.

Sincerely,

Mark McManus
General President

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