



March 16, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: TMRA Support of S. 512

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

As the Executive Director of the Texas Mining and Reclamation Association (TMRA) and on its behalf, I am writing in support of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (S. 512). TMRA applauds your leadership on this important legislation and that of your colleagues, Senators Sheldon Whitehouse, Jim Inhofe, Cory Booker, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer, Shelly Moore Capito, Joe Manchin, Bob Casey and Tammy Duckworth. This bipartisan legislation is critical and will help ensure that the United States has a stable supply of domestic uranium to power its nuclear reactors which provide one-fifth of the electricity in the United States.

In addition to helping jumpstart the advanced nuclear industry, S. 512 contains important reforms to modernize the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) fee structure for uranium recovery facilities and directs the NRC to examine the feasibility of extending the duration of uranium recovery licenses from 10 to 20 years, recognizing the low-risk nature of these projects.

We also strongly support the provisions in S. 512 to bring greater transparency and accountability to the Department of Energy's (DOE) management of the federal excess uranium inventory. As you know, DOE has a legal obligation to ensure uranium transfers will not have an adverse material impact on the domestic uranium mining, conversion, or enrichment industry. As also noted by the Uranium Producers of America (UPA), TMRA is concerned that the DOE has failed to meet that obligation and continues to make uranium transfers without any meaningful public input. S. 512 will ensure stakeholders have a voice in the process and will place annual limits on the amount of DOE material that can enter the market, starting with the baseline of DOE's current level of transfers.

On behalf of the domestic uranium industry, specifically those with assets and operations in Texas, thank you again for your leadership on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Chesley N. Blevins
Executive Director
Texas Mining and Reclamation Association