

PROGRAM IN ATMOSPHERES, OCEANS, AND CLIMATE
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MIT)
DEPARTMENT OF EARTH, ATMOSPHERIC, AND PLANETARY SCIENCES



April 24, 2016

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Boxer:

We write in strong support of the Nuclear Innovation and Modernization Act (S 2795). As scientists who study the physics of the atmosphere and climate, we have become deeply concerned about the generational risks associated with long-lived greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. We cannot continue to gamble with our children and grandchildren.

To avoid this, it is imperative to develop clean energy sources that expand rather than threaten our economy. That route must include advanced nuclear energy. We strongly believe that the US should lead the world in its development and deployment, not only to address the risks of rapid and dangerous climate change, but also to decrease the proliferation threats posed by the spread of inferior nuclear technology by less stable regimes.

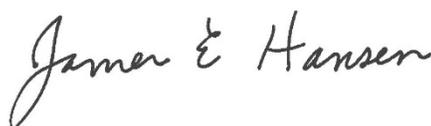
However, our leadership in this arena is imperiled by an outdated regulatory framework designed for an older generation of nuclear power. This framework makes it prohibitively costly and time-consuming to deploy nuclear power, discourages innovation and reduces our competitiveness in the development of clean energy internationally.

The Nuclear Innovation and Modernization Act would stimulate innovation and help position the U.S. to lead the world in the development of advanced, clean nuclear energy. Therefore, we strongly urge you to pass this legislation.

Yours sincerely,



Kerry A. Emanuel
Professor of Atmospheric Science
MIT



James Hansen
Adjunct Professor
Columbia University Earth Institute



Kenneth Caldeira
Carnegie Institution for Science