



March 21, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso  
United States Senate  
Senate Office Building  
307 Dirksen  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

On behalf of the New Mexico Mining Association (NMMA), I am writing in support of S. 512, the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act. We appreciate your leadership on this important legislation and the bipartisan support you have achieved. This legislation will help our nation's nuclear utilities achieve a stable supply of domestic uranium, which is important to our energy independence.

The NMMA is a Trade Association that serves as a spokesman for the New Mexico Mining Industry in both the Legislative and Regulatory Arenas. This legislation is very important to our members as we have the second largest deposits of Uranium in the United States.

The legislation contains needed reforms to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) fee structure for uranium recovery operations and directs the NRC to review the feasibility of extending the term of uranium recovery licenses from ten to twenty years, recognizing the low-risk nature of these operations.

NMMA also supports the legislation's provisions which would bring necessary transparency to the Department of Energy's (DOE) management of excess federal uranium inventories. The DOE's disposition of these inventories has been the subject of much scrutiny by Congress and the General Accounting Office. This legislation will provide stakeholders with more input on the process and more certainty to the amounts of uranium DOE transfers. We believe the legislation will increase the value to the taxpayers of this valuable asset.

On behalf of the NMMA, thank you for your attention and leadership on this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mike Bowen*

Mike Bowen  
Executive Director