



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

March 7, 2017

The Honorable John Garrasso
United States Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
United States Senate
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

The demand for clean, efficient and affordable energy has resulted over time in a parallel increase in nuclear energy production. That growth, in turn, has led to a need for improved policies and procedures in both development and production.

Boise State University researchers are working on a number of projects aimed at improving safety and efficiency at our nation's nuclear power plants, much of it in conjunction with Idaho National Laboratory. Thus it is no surprise that we are interested in, and support, the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA).

As you know, NEIMA will establish new transparency and accountability measures to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's budget and fee programs. It also will develop the necessary regulatory framework to enable advanced nuclear reactor licensing. Both of these steps are essential in ensuring that INL, with its university partners, has the opportunity to bring new technologies to market while continuing to safeguard both the public and the environment.

The act will streamline the process for issuing a license in most cases, and the DOE grant component will help companies raise the often prohibitive sums needed to engage with the NRC. Allowing emerging technologies to come to market faster will help the industry more effectively address challenges and take advantage of the innovation that defines this industry.

Sincerely,

Mark Rudin
Vice President for Research and Economic Development

c: Senator Jim Inhofe
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
Senator Mike Crapo
Senator Cory Booker

Senator Debra Fischer
Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Senator Joe Manchin