



April 22, 2016

The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cory A. Booker  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Senators Booker, Whitehouse, and Crapo:

I am writing on behalf of the Clean Air Task Force to express support for S.2795, the “Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act.”

Clean Air Task Force (CATF) is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to catalyzing the development and deployment of low emission energy technologies through research and analysis, public advocacy leadership, and partnership with the private sector.

Climate change is an enormous challenge. To have the greatest chance of success, CATF’s position is that we will likely need all of the low-carbon energy technologies available, including nuclear power. Therefore, Clean Air Task Force strongly supports Section 7 “Advanced Nuclear Reactor Program” and Section 9 “Advanced Nuclear Energy Licensing Cost-Share Grant Program” of S.2795 as important steps in enabling the efficient licensing and commercialization of advanced nuclear technologies.

S.2795 has the potential to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and to accelerate the advancement of important technologies for addressing climate change. CATF supports this legislation and we appreciate your leadership in moving this important work forward.

It will be critically important that adequate appropriations are made to ensure that the NRC can undertake the activities described in Section 7, and to ensure that the NRC can effectively perform its oversight role. It is important that the measures in the bill designed to control costs at the NRC do not interfere with its safety mission, and CATF is supportive of efforts to assure sufficient funding.

It will also be necessary to appropriate funds for the DOE cost-share grant program established in Section 9, and CATF is supportive of that program. The requirement that the Secretary seek out technology diversity in making grants is particularly important to maximize opportunities for successful commercialization of advanced nuclear energy.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 617-733-5458 or [afinan@catf.us](mailto:afinan@catf.us).

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley E. Finan', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Ashley E. Finan, Ph.D.  
Project Director, Advanced Energy Systems  
Clean Air Task Force