

April 25, 2016

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chairman U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cory A. Booker
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act, S. 2795

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

As a private citizen interested in safe, clean carbon free energy, and as a career venture capitalist who knows intimately how powerful American innovation can be, I applaud your introduction of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (S. 2795) introduced on April 13, 2016. This bipartisan bill could not come at a more important time as the nation faces the need for expanding the creation of more carbon-free electricity for itself, and for the world. Nuclear energy can be a significant contributor to our nation's standard of living, national security, economic growth, and lead the world in this most important international arena.

In the spirit of complete transparency, I am on the board of the Nuclear Innovation Alliance which was formed about 2 ½ years ago. So I am intimate with the issues discussed and possible solutions presented by Dr. Ashley Finan, whom you kindly asked to testify for the benefit of all. Your bill picks up on and adds to so many good ideas required to get the nuclear industry moving again. Further, I know that a strong nuclear industry requires an intimate, trusted, and

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efficient partnership between the private sector and the public sector. Judging from its track record, the NRC is a fabulous and successful regulatory body but like everything in life, it needs to be refreshed and updated to keep up with the times, opportunity and challenges that face our nation and the world. This bill clearly speaks to this need and fact.

Passage of S. 2795 will provide environmental and economic benefits to all Americans by helping to retain the current fleet that provides about 2/3 of the clean energy generated in the United States today, but in my humble opinion, by setting the stage for development and ultimate deployment of advanced nuclear reactor technologies under development in the heads and the labs of America's entrepreneurs. Again, in the spirit of full transparency, I am also an investor in and on the board of two nuclear energy startup companies here in the United States. In short order, the United States will soon need the technologies presently under development, but the world needs them immediately. Time is of the essence.

If I can be of service to you in this effort, please do not hesitate to ask. I thank you for introducing this bill and hope that I can personally thank you in the coming weeks and months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray A. Rothrock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ray" being particularly prominent.

Ray A. Rothrock
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