



**POWERTECH (USA) INC.**

March 17, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

Powertech (USA) Inc., a South Dakota Corporation, would like to express its support of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (S. 512). We applaud your leadership bringing this legislation to light as well the efforts of your co-sponsors, Senators Sheldon Whitehouse, Jim Inhofe, Cory Booker, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer, Shelly Moore Capito, Joe Manchin, Bob Casey, and Tammy Duckworth. This bipartisan legislation will help ensure we have a stable supply of domestic uranium to power our nuclear reactors, which provide one-fifth of the electricity in the United States.

We believe S. 512 provides direct benefit to advancing nuclear power in the United States. Nuclear power provides stable, base-load electricity and produces in excess of 60% of carbon-free electricity in the United States.

We support efforts to optimize aspects of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's ("NRC") licensing and billing programs, which are key to maintaining cost-effective and efficient domestic uranium supply. As you probably realize, uranium projects within the United States are typically a long-term proposition, often lasting for decades. In accordance with the proposed bill, extending the duration of a NRC license from 10 to 20 years coincides with the existing operating environment of the industry.

As well, provisions in S. 512 bring greater transparency and accountability to the Department of Energy's ("DOE") management of the federal excess uranium inventory. Imposing annual limits on the amount of DOE material that can enter the market, in particular, will provide greater market stability. This will allow producers to plan production without sudden and unpredictable entry of DOE uranium into the market at spot prices.

We would like to join the other voices of the domestic uranium industry and thank you again for your leadership on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

John Mays  
Chief Operating Officer