

## DEPARTMENT of ENGINEERING PHYSICS

College of Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison



Nuclear Engineering

Engineering Physics

Engineering Mechanics

Astronautics

17 March 2017

Senator John Barrasso  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Thomas Carper  
513 Hart Senate Office

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Barrasso and Carper:


I am writing to voice strong support for your recently introduced legislation, S. 512, the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA). Nuclear energy is a critical part of a well-structured modern energy system, providing clean energy and supporting vital U.S. jobs. To be most effective, nuclear energy needs to provide a wider range of products that the traditional large electricity production machines currently offer. However, to move to a wider range of products requires nimble regulation that provides for public safety but also responds at a speed consistent with developing commerce.

Over the past year a community of innovators has begun to emerge that is altering the way we develop and commercialize nuclear technologies. Over fifty companies are spending private funds on nuclear innovation, partnering with our national laboratories and universities to accelerate the modernization of our nuclear fleet. This bipartisan bill sets an important national expectation that our regulator charges reasonable fees, is trained and ready to regulate an emerging set of innovative nuclear products, and provides an important framework for ensuring a supply of uranium that properly relies on our commercial mining infrastructure.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation, which is an important step in ensuring the U.S. nuclear industry leads in innovation and development of new commercial products. If I can

be of any assistance in providing more information or answering questions about how this legislation will impact research being done at universities like UW-Madison's, please let me know. I look forward to working with you in support NEIMA as it moves through the Senate and Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Allen", with a horizontal line underneath.

Professor Todd Allen  
Energy and Sustainability Lead  
Grainger Institute for Engineering  
University of Wisconsin

cc:

Senator Cory Booker  
Senator Mike Crapo  
Senator Shelly Moore Capito  
Senator Deb Fischer  
Senator James Inhofe  
Senator Joseph Manchin  
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse