

June 8, 2017

Chairman John Barrasso
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Tom Carper
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

I am writing in strong support of the nominations of Annie Caputo and Kristine Svinicki to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Third Way advocates for the quick and safe deployment of advanced nuclear reactors, and a forward-looking and well-staffed NRC is crucial to this goal. Both Caputo and Svinicki have demonstrated a commitment to ensuring the NRC is prepared to license a new generation of reactors and to regulate the existing fleet effectively and securely. We are very glad to see their nominations.

Caputo's work in the Senate, including her integral role in drafting and moving the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act, shows her capability to aid in the NRC's current transition to regulating both existing and advanced nuclear. She has consistently worked with members on both sides of the aisle to promote effective nuclear regulation and is well-respected across partisan lines for her expertise, professionalism, and competence. Few people are more qualified to fill this role at the NRC.

We are similarly pleased with Kristine Svinicki's nomination for another term at NRC and her designation as Chair. Svinicki's work at the NRC has resulted in improved readiness to regulate small modular and advanced reactors. Under her leadership, the agency has worked to prepare licensing infrastructure for new types of reactors that could provide enormous benefits for climate, American leadership, and domestic job creation. With several advanced reactor developers already engaging the NRC and more on the way, Chairman Svinicki's continued leadership is needed now more than ever.

Maintaining a quorum at the NRC is vital to the functioning of America's nuclear sector. Therefore, we request that these nominations be moved as quickly as possible, especially in light of the fast-approaching end to Chairman Svinicki's current term on June 30. As we have not had the opportunity to work with David Wright, Third Way has yet to take a position on his nomination.

Finally, we believe that the NRC is best-functioning when it is free from partisanship and headed by highly qualified individuals; for this reason, we strongly support the nominations of Caputo and Svinicki, both Republicans. However, we also hope to soon see Democratic nominees moved through the Committee to ensure public confidence in the balanced leadership of the Commission. We know the Committee has no direct role in nominations. Nevertheless, any encouragement of prompt Democratic nominations from the Committee or its members could be helpful in maintaining a well-regulated and forward-looking NRC and in avoiding unnecessary politicization of the nuclear energy sector.

Sincerely,



Josh Freed
Vice President for the Clean Energy Program
Third Way