



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

Ranking Member Tom Carper
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper,

It is with sincere gratitude for your efforts that I provide this letter of support for the **Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act** (S. 512). This legislation wholeheartedly represents a rare and beautiful quality in American politics: bipartisanship. While the technical merits of this legislation are strong, one of its greatest strengths comes from the ability of its cosponsors to move beyond partisan challenges to address the needs of the nation.

I have been honored to work with the staff of the original cosponsors of this legislation for the past two years in efforts to improve and clarify the important details of modernizing the nuclear regulatory environment both for current and future nuclear reactors. The impressive collaboration of a variety of engaged stakeholders leads me to believe this legislation will lead to an even more robust nuclear innovation ecosystem in the coming years.

With NEIMA consideration as one of the first legislative hearings in 2017 for the Committee on Environment and Public Works, it is clear you recognize the urgency of the situation. My peers similarly recognize the urgent need of the nation and are designing and preparing to test and demonstrate advanced reactors capable of reducing nuclear waste production, increasing the strong safety record against nuclear accidents, addressing global proliferation concerns, and improving the economic accessibility of nuclear power.

Nuclear regulation is an area in which balance is critical. There must be no race to the bottom but there must also not be an insurmountable wall of red-tape keeping innovators from bringing their best ideas to the table. Nuclear Regulatory Commission fee schedules may not be the talk of the town but their right-sizing will allow nuclear innovation to prosper. The advanced nuclear energy licensing cost-share grant program will also be a critical step in the evolution of nuclear policy.

As former Chairman Senator Jim Inhofe said at the NEIMA hearing, “..It is a lot fun when we can work on issues that we agree on, so let’s get it done.”

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel Brinton".

Samuel Brinton
Founder, Core Solutions Consulting

CC: Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Jim Inhofe (R-OK), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Deb Fischer (R-NE), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Robert Casey (D-PA), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), and Jeff Flake (R-AZ)