



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

September 14, 2016

The Honorable Mike Crapo
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cory Booker
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Risch
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Crapo, Whitehouse, Booker, Hatch, and Risch,

Thank you for your leadership on the issue of advanced nuclear energy innovation. The Bipartisan Policy Center has a strong history in nuclear policy and is a strong supporter of energy research and development as well as nuclear energy innovation.

Although nuclear power—a significant source of carbon-free electricity—was developed and first commercialized in the United States, we are arguably losing the strategic and economic advantages of U.S. leadership in the field. And yet, today there are technologists and entrepreneurs in the United States who are anxious to develop, test, and commercialize advanced nuclear reactors encompassing a broad range of new and innovative designs, fuel cycles, and materials. Such reactors hold the possibility of inherent safety at far lower cost than the current generation of reactors.

Your legislation, S. 2461, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act, would coordinate the efforts of the government in its role to better support and regulate advanced nuclear designs. The strong bipartisan nature of your deliberations were evident at the hearings on the bill and BPC hopes this cooperation continues. Your bill's proposed National Nuclear Innovation Center will enable the critically needed collaborative testing and demonstration of privately funded and developed reactor concepts.

It is clear your legislation would provide a foundational understanding of what we must do to advance nuclear innovation and restore U.S. leadership in this critical field. We look forward to continued conversations on this topic.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Tracy Terry
Director, Energy Project