



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

November 20, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Committee on Science, Space
and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science, Space
and Technology
394 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Randy Weber
Chairman
House Science Subcommittee on Energy
2319 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Johnson and Chairman Weber:

Thank you for your leadership on the issue of advanced nuclear energy innovation. The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) has both a Nuclear Waste Council and is home to the American Energy Innovation Council. As such BPC is a strong supporter of energy research and development and nuclear energy.

Although nuclear power—the workhorse of emissions-free electricity—was developed and first commercialized in the United States, we have arguably lost 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 promise of inherent safety at far lower cost than the current generation of reactors being built today.

Your legislation would coordinate the efforts of the government in its role to regulate nuclear designs as well as promote integral R&D with private company support. By supporting high performance computation modeling, considering the next steps in an advanced test reactor, preparing the way for private companies to demonstrate innovative new reactor designs, and planning a long-term budget for the advanced nuclear research program, 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.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Terry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tracy" and last name "Terry" clearly distinguishable.

Tracy Terry
Director, Energy Project