

July, 17, 2017

The Hon. Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We write to request that Congress preserve the loan guarantee program established under Section 1703 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA05). President Trump recently announced that nuclear energy is a critical priority, stating that “we will begin to revive and expand our nuclear energy sector.” A federal loan guarantee program is one of several elements essential to ensure that nuclear energy is able to continue to play its vital role in the United States. Section 1703 provides the Department of Energy (DOE) the authority to issue loan guarantees for early commercial use of advanced energy technologies including nuclear energy technologies. Nuclear energy is a crucial element of a diverse “all of the above” energy portfolio.

Nuclear energy is critical infrastructure and is essential to the energy and national security of the United States. Our 99 commercial nuclear reactors generate 20 percent of U.S. electricity – and 60 percent of our clean air electricity – around the clock, providing unsurpassed stability and valuable fuel diversity to the grid while sustaining nearly half a million well-paying jobs. And U.S. exports and diplomatic relations have benefited from U.S. international leadership in nuclear technology – which is being challenged by countries like China and Russia.

The Section 1703 loan guarantee program is currently supporting construction of the next generation of nuclear reactors in the U.S. and the thousands of direct and indirect jobs associated with these projects. In addition, commitments have been made in support of new fuel cycle facilities and loan guarantee applications have been filed for projects including uprates and upgrades at existing facilities, construction of light water small modular reactors, and advanced non-light water reactors. These projects are in the early stages of development, and we expect that more projects in the future will seek support from the loan guarantee

program. Rescinding the remaining authority could substantially impact the long-term viability of the U.S. nuclear energy sector.

The loan guarantee program has successfully supported innovation in nuclear energy and other clean energy technologies and should continue to do so in the future. The impacts of the program are felt far beyond just the participants/applicants. American jobs, domestic energy security, and U.S. global leadership and energy dominance all are beneficiaries of the program. In addition, the loan guarantee program for nuclear energy differs from that for other fuel sources in that the program is designed not to cost the taxpayers any money, as the credit subsidy is fully paid for by the loan guarantee recipients.

We strongly urge Congress to preserve funding for nuclear energy under EPLA05 Section 1703.

Sincerely,

Nuclear Energy Institute

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute

National Association of Manufacturers

SMR Start

Third Way

Environmental Progress

Nuclear Matters

Clean Air Task Force

North American Young Generation in Nuclear

U.S. WIN

Consumer Energy Alliance

Bipartisan Policy Center

James Hansen, Climate Scientist, Earth Institute, Columbia University

Michael Shellenberger, President, Environmental Progress

Stewart Brand, Founder, Whole Earth Catalogue, Long Now Foundation

Christopher Foreman, Author of The Promise & Peril of Environmental Justice, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland

Joshua S. Goldstein, Prof. Emeritus of International Relations, American University

Steve Kirsch, CEO, Token

Andrew Klein, Immediate Past President, American Nuclear Society

Michelle Marvier, Professor, Environmental Studies and Sciences, Santa Clara University

Alan Medsker, Coordinator, Environmental Progress - Illinois

Elizabeth Muller, Founder and Executive Director, Berkeley Earth

Richard Muller, Professor of Physics, UC Berkeley, Co-Founder, Berkeley Earth

Steven Pinker, Harvard University, Author of Better Angels of Our Nature

Paul Robbins, Director, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison