



**INTERNATIONAL
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July 17, 2018

VIA EMAIL

To: All Members of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee

Re: Support H.R. 6351, the “Advancing U.S. Civil Nuclear Competitiveness and Jobs Act”

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of the approximately 775,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I am writing to voice my support for H.R. 6351, the “Advancing U.S. Civil Nuclear Competitiveness and Jobs Act,” introduced on July 12, 2018. It would amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to improve the process by which the Secretary of Energy authorizes the transfer of civilian nuclear commerce technology and assistance. By targeting Section 810 of the Code of Federal Regulations, H.R. 6351 would increase the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers by reforming the bureaucratic process and leveling the playing field with producers overseas.

For many years, U.S. nuclear exporters have been disadvantaged by an overly lengthy and cumbersome review process for the export of commercial nuclear energy technology. Foreign competitors – often heavily subsidized or even wholly owned by their governments – are granted similar authorizations in a matter of weeks. The process in the U.S. could take up to a year. This provides buyers every incentive to look elsewhere for components like nuclear fuel assemblies and cooling pumps that are produced here in the United States by members of the IBEW, and often supplied to domestic plants. IBEW members also perform motor refurbishment work for nuclear facility backup electrical systems. A supply chain that retains key components, materials and assembly at home should be a goal of U.S. policy, particularly in the nuclear industry where proprietary technology is a matter of national security.

Nuclear energy plays a key role in the production of carbon-free baseload electrical power, and greater global reliance on fossil fuels comes at an environmental cost. Increasing global demand for electricity provides a key opportunity for the U.S. nuclear industry to assist other countries in the development of nuclear energy production while increasing the number of good jobs and myriad economic benefits for American companies and workers. By promoting the domestic nuclear energy industry, H.R. 6351 could advance national and energy security, reduce the unfair advantage of foreign companies and foster the growth of U.S. suppliers and manufacturers. On behalf of the members of the IBEW, I urge your strong support for these worthwhile goals.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:mlm

