

CLEARPATH ACTION

February 6, 2023

Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Energy and Commerce Committee
The House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Frank Pallone
Energy and Commerce Committee
The House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone

ClearPath Action would like to thank the Committee for its leadership on U.S. nuclear energy and for considering the draft bill, Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act, during the joint legislative hearing on “Unleashing American Energy, Lowering Energy Costs, and Strengthening Supply Chains.” A secure and robust nuclear fuel supply chain is critical to ensuring American families receive clean, affordable, and reliable energy from our nation's nuclear power plants.

Reducing reliance on Russian fuel provides the certainty required to incentivize domestic industry, build new capacity, and support our allies. This need for secure nuclear fuel supply chains extends beyond traditional, large light-water reactors. The two flagship advanced nuclear reactor demonstration projects underway through the Department of Energy require high-assay, low-enriched uranium fuel (HALEU), which today is only available from Russia. According to modeling by the International Energy Agency in 2021, to meet our global climate goals, around 500 gigawatts of new nuclear power must be brought online by 2050. The United States has the potential to supply both the technology and the fuel for this massive global market.

While the Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act would create certainty for the low-enriched uranium (LEU) supply market, it could also address the HALEU supply market. This bill has the potential to enable the United States to lead globally across both the LEU and HALEU supply chains. The Committee could allow the Department of Energy to identify the remaining need for the Advanced Nuclear Fuel Availability program, established under section 2001 of the Energy Act of 2020, and reappropriate that amount in addition to the funds made available for the American Assured Fuel Supply program.

This comprehensive approach would complete the intent of this legislation by providing an American alternative to Russian nuclear fuel dominance that addresses both near-term and long-term supply chain security. Thank you again for your interest and leadership in furthering American clean energy leadership in the nuclear power industry.

Sincerely,



Rich Powell
Chief Executive Officer
ClearPath Action