



United States Nuclear Industry Council
1317 F Street NW Washington, DC 20004

Date: February 6, 2023

To:

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chairwoman
U.S. House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: USNIC Letter to House Energy & Commerce Committee on Russian Uranium Imports

Dear Chairwoman McMorris Rodgers & Ranking Member Pallone:

The U.S. Nuclear Industry Council (USNIC) and its members are grateful for the Committee's continued support for the U.S. nuclear industry. A robust U.S. nuclear fuels supply chain is crucial to our industry's health. As we progress steadily toward deployment of advanced reactors, the attention paid by the Committee to the importance of supporting nuclear as a clean energy solution is highly valued.

That is why USNIC welcomes this Committee's strong focus on resilient supply chains to support the Nation's critical infrastructures, including the vital importance to strengthen our domestic capability to enrich uranium to support our own energy infrastructure as well as that of partners and allies. In that connection, USNIC urges the Committee to ensure that there is adequate flexibility to apply funds already appropriated under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU) and low-enriched uranium (LEU) in the event the Secretary of Energy determines it is necessary or appropriate.

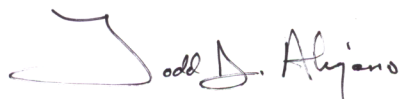
We are also appreciative of proposed legislation "To prohibit the importation into the United States of unirradiated low-enriched uranium that is produced in the Russian Federation, and for other purposes." USNIC and our members have reviewed the proposed legislation carefully and are convinced it can be an important element for continued successful development of our vital national industry. We support the Committee's intent with this legislation that clearly, we cannot, and should not, rely on Russia for the enriched uranium to meet current industry needs, and definitely not to meet the needs for HALEU that is vital to U.S. objectives for advanced reactors.

We also note that the proposed legislation provides for a thoughtful process that will allow for the domestic fuel supply chain to ramp up over the next six years, as well as the criteria provided for potential waiver of restrictions if the Secretary of Energy determines that there is no alternative viable source available, or it is otherwise in the national interest. Given the need to protect American interests as we build domestic capacity, we recommend that the Committee include language to ensure that existing contracts signed prior to the invasion are grandfathered during the transition period to ensure adequate supply and avoid rewarding Russia with an opportunity, to sell at high prices in third markets, enrichment that they are now committed to sell at pre-invasion prices. These provisions should alleviate

any issues for those who may be concerned that Russian enriched uranium might at some future time be needed to meet U.S. requirements.

Thank you very much for the support you consistently provide for our industry, an industry that is crucial for U.S. energy security, economic well-being, and national security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd D. Abrajaño". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a distinct "D".

Todd Abrajaño
President & CEO
U.S. Nuclear Industry Council (USNIC)
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