

April 20, 2016

Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Pallone:

I write on behalf of the over 11,000 men and women of the American Nuclear Society to express our support for H.R. 4979, the Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the U.S. and the world will need to significantly expand nuclear generating capacity in the coming decades to address growing energy demands while reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

Expanded federal engagement in advanced, non-light-water nuclear research and development is critical to achieving these overall objectives. The Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act would assist U.S. companies in accessing the full range of technical capabilities within the federal government and national laboratories; accelerate development of world-leading scientific user facilities; and promote broader technology commercialization through public-private partnership initiatives and accelerated licensing programs.

Historically, the U.S. has led the world in developing new reactor technology. However, several other nations, including Russia and China, have moved aggressively to develop innovative Generation IV reactors which offer distinct advantages over current designs.

The U.S. must recommit itself to improving its advanced reactor technology portfolio in order to ensure future access to abundant clean energy and to maintain its influence over global nuclear safety and nonproliferation norms. This legislation, if enacted, would provide needed support toward those objectives.

Sincerely,



Eugene S. Grecheck
President
American Nuclear Society