

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL

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April 29, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
The Honorable Ed Whitfield, Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Power
The Honorable Bobby Rush, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Power
U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Whitfield and Ranking Member Rush:

The U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council is writing to commend the Committee's bipartisan support for advanced nuclear energy reactor innovation and development as manifested by H.R. 4979, the Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act of 2016.

As the leading American business consortium advocate for new nuclear energy and the promotion of the U.S. supply chain globally, we believe that trailblazing the advance of nuclear energy technology including Gen 3+, Small Modular Reactors, Non-Light Water Reactor (LWR) Advanced Reactors and Fusion Reactors is one of the key imperatives for U.S. market competitiveness and is vital to maintaining the U.S. lead in technology innovation, safety enhancements, energy security and carbon reduction.

To this end, we welcome the focus of H.R. 4979 on supporting the continued use of the current fleet of nuclear reactors and enabling the development of advanced nuclear reactor technologies by enhancing accountability in the NRC's budget and fee programs as well as ensuring that the Commission develops a modern, technology neutral framework that allows for the phased and expedited licensing of advanced reactor technologies. This legislation follows a number of the key recommendations that were included in the *Advanced Reactor White Paper* that NIC issued on February 22, 2016.

We applaud the Committee for quickly moving forward on this legislation and we stand ready to provide our assistance in support of its timely passage.

Please note that while these views represent the consensus of the U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council, they do not necessarily represent the views of individual member companies.

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Again, many thanks for the work of the Energy and Commerce Committee on these pivotal legislative measures. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on these matters.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Jeffrey S. Merrifield (NRC Commissioner 1998-2007)
Partner, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP
Chairman, Nuclear Infrastructure Council – Advanced Reactor Task Force

