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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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March 10, 2026

Ms. Maria Korsnick
President and CEO
Nuclear Energy Institute
1201 F Street NW
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Ms. Korsnick:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, to testify at the hearing entitled “American Energy Dominance: Dawn of the New Nuclear Era.”

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. Your responses should be mailed to Seth Ricketts Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed to Seth.Ricketts@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert E. Latta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent.

Robert E. Latta
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy

cc: Kathy Castor, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Bob Latta (R-OH)

1. Our current operating fleet relies heavily on critical minerals such as Lithium 7. Li-7 is yet another critical mineral that China and Russia are large producers of. Given the Trump Administration's emphasis on the importance of critical minerals and the actions already taken by the administration to help revive conventional nuclear and bolster the emerging advanced nuclear industry, are there any supply chain concerns you have regarding Lithium 7 or other critical minerals?
 - a. Where does the current operating fleet source Lithium 7?
 - b. Do you have any recommendations on how to build out the domestic supply chain of Li-7?
2. How do existing nuclear sites, like V.C. Summer, reduce project risk, cost, and timelines compared to greenfield development, and how can federal policy better support redevelopment of these sites?
3. All fuel cycle facilities aside from enrichment facilities may begin construction at risk nine months after submitting a Part 70 application. No radioactive material or enrichment activity may occur before NRC licensing and operational readiness review. However, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's interpretations of Section 193 of the Atomic Energy Act prohibit enrichment facilities from beginning construction until the license is granted.
 - a. Are there any added safety or security benefits by delaying construction until a license is granted?
 - b. If not, given bipartisan efforts to expand domestic enrichment capacity, should Congress clarify the law to allow enrichment facilities to begin construction after submitting a license application?

The Honorable Rick Allen (R-GA)

1. From my perspective, we need to be doing everything that we can to ensure that this country leads the world in energy abundance and availability. Anything less than that is a threat to national security, which is an unacceptable outcome. As we look at countries like China that are building power plants at an incredibly fast rate, what should we be doing to ensure that America stays energy dominant and does not fall behind China in the nuclear race?
 - a. What do you think the consequences are if countries like China advance beyond the U.S. in new nuclear technology and development?

The Honorable Troy Balderson (R-OH)

1. We've seen several technology and data center companies make big bets on SMR technologies. These are companies with a history of investing in early-stage, innovative technologies that become commercialized and are widely used today. Why do you think these bets are being made on SMR technology today?
 - a. How important is it for us to accelerate both permitting and technology development of SMRs to win the AI race with China?
 - b. Would the growth of SMRs as the next wave of carbon-free power technologies be possible without data center growth in the United States?
2. How should the US Department of Energy best allocate loan credit authority through the Office of Energy Dominance Financing to accelerate small modular reactor development?
3. Accelerating capacity in the near term is critical. While constructing new nuclear facilities is imperative, more needs to be done to improve the output of existing nuclear facilities. How can the United States Department of Energy and the Office of Energy Dominance Financing encourage investments that improve efficiencies from existing nuclear facilities through uprates to support meeting demand in the near term?

The Honorable Diana Harshbarger (R-TN)

1. As part of the NRC's rigorous license and permitting process for commercial reactors, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) provides their own safety reviews and reports their findings to the NRC. Is it correct that ACRS is unnecessarily involved in some licensing actions? How can Congress ensure the vital role of the ACRS is effectively focused on the most safety-significant or new technologies?

The Honorable Laural Lee (R-FL)

1. In your written testimony, you mentioned that nuclear energy is "uniquely valuable to national security." At this Committee, we strongly believe that energy security is national security.
 - a. Would you elaborate for us on why nuclear power is critical for our national security, and the qualities that make nuclear energy unique in this regard?
 - b. In my home state of Florida, we face a dual challenge: a rapidly growing population and the constant threat of extreme weather. Our existing nuclear plants have proven to be the backbone of our resilient grid. As we look to the future, how can advanced nuclear technologies—specifically SMRs and microreactors—provide Florida with the storm-hardened, clean, baseload power needed to support our state's growing economy and protect our residents?

- c. What are some of the ways that nuclear facilities are protected against physical and cyber threats?
2. In your testimony, you also mentioned the importance of maintaining a domestic nuclear fuel cycle and transitioning away from Russian fuel supplies. At the same time, you ask Congress “not to impose limits that could jeopardize the operational reliability of current and future plants or increase energy costs for consumers.” I agree we need to ensure reliability and avoid unnecessary costs on ratepayers. Congress has been hearing increasing concerns about the buildout of China enriched supplies that may be contracted into the United States market.
 - a. While such contracting may be relatively small, would you agree that reducing dependence on Russia while increasing dependence on China is not a positive development?
 - b. With global demand for uranium projected to skyrocket in the future, is it important for the United States to expand domestic uranium production, from mining through enrichment, so we are not exposed to the same kinds of supply chain coercion from China, or other hostile nations?
 - c. Is there anything else industry can do to ensure it does not get locked into a new level of supply chain dependency with China that undermines our policy to have a secure fuel supply?
3. As you know, the explosion of AI and expansion of data centers are creating a massive, unprecedented surge in electricity demand. We are seeing tech companies and data center developers look toward nuclear energy to provide the 24/7 baseload power required for AI.
 - a. Does the current regulatory framework at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) allow for the speed and scale of deployment necessary to meet this localized demand, or are our outdated permitting processes threatening to hand the lead in the AI revolution to China?
 - b. How will successful implementation of the ADVANCE Act change that?
 - c. Is there anything Congress can do to speed up the work of NRC and implementation of the ADVANCE Act?

The Honorable Diana DeGette (D-CO)

1. I appreciated your response to Rep. Fedorchak when she asked how Congress should follow up with the NRC to ensure that the ADVANCE Act was being appropriately implemented. I authored H.R. 4528 last Congress, which was the genesis of the staffing language included in section 502 of the ADVANCE Act. I completely agree that

Congress should have more transparency into how the NRC is using the tools we granted to it in the ADVANCE Act.

- a. Can you detail the importance of the tools that Congress granted the NRC in attracting and retaining highly competent professional staff?
- b. Section 161B(f) of the Atomic Energy Act requires the NRC to include information in its annual budget request around hiring, vacancies, and compensation at the Commission, and to provide detailed information about how the NRC is using its staffing authorities under the ADVANCE Act. The NRC's Fiscal Year 2026 budget did not include such information. Should the NRC provide Congress, the industry, and the general public with this information on its staffing and compensation?

The Honorable Doris Matsui (D-CA)

1. During the hearing on January 7, you acknowledged that the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended in 1987, does not meet the need for an effective comprehensive nuclear waste program. Can you please provide specific and detailed recommendations to this Committee for how the Nuclear Waste Policy Act should be amended to meet the nation's current and future needs regarding nuclear waste and used fuel?