Summary of Testimony
Nuclear Energy Institute
Maria Korsnick, President and Chief Executive Officer
Subcommittee on Energy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
June 9, 2026

Since I last testified before this Subcommittee in January, momentum across the nuclear energy sector has accelerated significantly. Congress and the Administration have taken important steps to strengthen domestic nuclear capabilities, modernize regulation, support deployment, and reinforce the role of nuclear energy in meeting America's growing electricity demand and national security needs through policies such as the ADVANCE Act, tax incentives, domestic fuel-cycle investments, and DOE demonstration programs, and furthered by executive orders. Utilities, technology companies, manufacturers, labor organizations, and investors are responding with new partnerships, capital commitments, uprates, restarts, license renewals, fuel-cycle investments, and plans for additional nuclear generation.

This progress reflects a growing recognition that nuclear energy is essential to maintaining reliable and affordable electricity as demand rises across the economy. The industry is building on a strong foundation: the existing fleet continues to operate at historically high levels of safety and reliability, while new reactor technologies are advancing through licensing, demonstration, and early deployment activities.

But the next phase will be more challenging. The United States must now translate early progress into repeatable, cost-effective deployment at scale. Accomplishing that objective will require continued congressional leadership, disciplined implementation by federal agencies, sustained engagement from states and local communities, and long-term private-sector investment.

To support reliable and affordable electricity, strengthen U.S. competitiveness, and enable large-scale deployment, NEI urges Congress to continue focusing on the following priorities:

- Continue modernizing NRC processes and regulations to ensure reviews are focused on safety-significant issues, predictable and timely.
- Accelerate new nuclear deployment by addressing early-project cost and schedule risk and enabling greater private sector investment.
- Strengthen the domestic nuclear fuel cycle and ensure timely development of mining, conversion, enrichment, and advanced fuel capabilities.
- Advance an integrated used fuel management and recycling strategy that addresses storage, transportation, recycling, and disposal while protecting ratepayer interests and preserving federal contractual obligations.
- Build the workforce and supply chain needed for scale, including skilled labor, manufacturing capacity, qualified suppliers, and predictable project pipelines.
- Strengthen U.S. security and global competitiveness through domestic deployment, export capabilities, financing tools, and coordinated federal engagement.

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I am Maria Korsnick, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI).[1] I appreciate the opportunity to testify before the Subcommittee and thank Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Subcommittee Chairman Latta, Subcommittee Ranking Member Castor, and the other members of the Committee for inviting me to discuss legislation and policies affecting the future of nuclear energy in the United States.

When I appeared before this Subcommittee in January, I described a nuclear industry entering a period of renewed growth and national importance. Since then, Congress and the Administration have continued to take important steps to modernize regulation, strengthen domestic nuclear capabilities, support deployment, and reinforce the role of nuclear energy in meeting growing electricity demand and national security needs. Building on policies such as nuclear power-related executive orders, the ADVANCE Act, clean electricity tax incentives, domestic fuel-cycle investments, and the Department of Energy's Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program, utilities, technology companies, manufacturers, labor organizations, and investors are responding with new partnerships, capital commitments, uprates, restarts, license renewals, fuel-cycle investments, and plans for additional nuclear generation.

These developments reflect growing recognition that nuclear energy is essential to

[1] NEI's mission is to promote the use and growth of nuclear energy through efficient operations and effective policy. NEI has about 375 members, including companies that own or operate nuclear power plants, reactor designers and advanced technology companies, architect and engineering firms, fuel suppliers and service companies, consulting services and manufacturing companies, companies involved in nuclear medicine and nuclear industrial applications, radionuclide and radiopharmaceutical companies, universities and research laboratories, labor unions, and international electric utilities.

maintaining reliable and affordable electricity as demand rises across the economy. The existing fleet continues to operate at historically high levels of safety and reliability, while new reactor technologies advance through licensing, demonstration, and early deployment activities.

The next challenge is translating this early progress into repeatable, cost-effective deployment at-scale. Accomplishing that objective will require continued congressional leadership, disciplined implementation by federal agencies, sustained engagement from states and local communities, and long-term private-sector investment.

The legislation before the Subcommittee addresses several important elements of that effort. NEI appreciates the Committee's continued leadership and offers the following views for consideration.

I. Nuclear energy is essential to America's reliability, affordability, and national security.

Nuclear power is foundational to the nation's reliable electricity system. The U.S. nuclear fleet continues to operate at historically high levels of safety and reliability and remains the country's largest source of clean electricity. Today, 94 commercial reactors in 28 states provide nearly 20 percent of America's electricity and more than 40% of its clean generation, delivering approximately 800 million megawatt-hours of around-the-clock power each year.

The value of that generation is becoming increasingly important as electricity demand rises across the economy. Data centers, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, electrification, and industrial reshoring are increasing demand for reliable, always-available electricity. Grid operators, utilities, states, and large energy users are increasingly focused on resources capable of providing firm power at scale. Nuclear energy is uniquely positioned to meet that need.

Nuclear facilities are also among the most secure assets on the electric grid. They are hardened against physical and cyber threats and designed to continue operating during extreme weather and other disruptive events. Because nuclear plants refuel only every 18 to 24 months and operate with industry-leading capacity factors, they provide resilience and price stability that are increasingly valuable in a changing energy system.

Nuclear energy is also a major economic driver. The industry contributes more than $60 billion annually to U.S. gross domestic product and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs nationwide. Across the operating fleet, the industry directly employs more than 70,000 highly skilled workers in long-term, well-paying positions, while supporting substantial additional employment through construction, manufacturing, maintenance, and supply-chain activity.[2]

Nuclear plants also serve as economic anchors in the communities where they operate. They generate billions of dollars annually in federal, state, and local tax revenue that supports schools, infrastructure, emergency services, and other public needs. In many communities, particularly rural communities, nuclear plants are among the most important long-term employers and sources of public revenue.

For these reasons, continued operation and expansion of the nation's nuclear fleet will be increasingly important to maintaining a reliable, affordable, and secure energy system.

II. The United States has entered a new phase of nuclear deployment.

The United States is now moving from nuclear policy development to nuclear project execution. That shift is visible across the sector. Owners of existing nuclear plants are pursuing license renewals, uprates, extended fuel cycles, and operational improvements that can increase

[2] Oxford Economics, *The Economic Contribution of The US Nuclear Power Industry* at 4, 12 (Oct. 2024), https://www.oxfordeconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/The-economic-contribution-of-the-US-nuclear-power-industry.pdf.

output from proven assets. Previously retired reactors are being restarted. These actions represent some of the fastest and most cost-effective ways to add reliable capacity to the grid.

At the same time, the next generation of nuclear technologies is moving from concept to deployment. Earlier this year, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued the first construction permit for a commercial advanced reactor facility in decades for TerraPower's Natrium project near Kemmerer, Wyoming. Kairos Power has begun construction of its Hermes 2 reactor project in Tennessee, while TerraPower and Bechtel have commenced major construction activities on the Natrium project. The NRC also issued the first-ever license authorizing commercial production of TRISO fuel for advanced reactors to Triso-X, helping establish the fuel supply chain needed to support future deployments. Taken together, these milestones reflect years of technological innovation, regulatory preparation, and public-private investment and demonstrate that advanced reactor deployment is moving from development and demonstration into commercial implementation.

Momentum extends well beyond reactor developers. Utilities and technology companies are entering long-term partnerships to secure reliable power supplies. Industrial users are evaluating nuclear energy for electricity, process heat, and onsite applications. Federal programs are supporting demonstration and early deployment activities, while states increasingly seek to attract nuclear investment, manufacturing facilities, fuel-cycle infrastructure, and workforce development opportunities.

This activity reflects a significant change in the market. Large energy users increasingly require electricity that is available at all times and capable of supporting rapid growth in computing, manufacturing, and other energy-intensive activities. Nuclear energy is well

positioned to provide that capability at scale.

The Administration's May 2025 executive actions reinforce this direction by prioritizing nuclear deployment, regulatory modernization, fuel-cycle capability, advanced reactor testing, and revitalization of the nuclear industrial base. These actions recognize the role of nuclear energy in supporting energy security, national security, economic competitiveness, and technological leadership.

Congress has also played a decisive role. The ADVANCE Act, support for domestic fuel supply, nuclear-supportive tax incentives, DOE demonstration programs, extension of the Price-Anderson Act, and bipartisan engagement across committees have helped establish the conditions necessary for continued operation of the existing fleet and deployment of new nuclear technologies.

These developments represent significant progress toward commercial deployment. However, moving from early projects to a sustained buildout will require disciplined execution, regulatory predictability, financing tools, supply-chain expansion, workforce development, and continued public confidence. The United States has the technology and the demand. The challenge now is enabling deployment at the pace and scale the country requires.

III. Regulatory modernization will strengthen safety, improve predictability, and support deployment.

The nuclear industry's commitment to safety is unwavering. For decades, the U.S. nuclear industry has maintained a strong safety record under a regulatory framework designed to protect public health and safety and support public confidence in nuclear energy. The NRC plays an essential role in that framework.

Regulatory modernization is not about reducing safety standards. It is about ensuring that regulatory requirements and processes reflect operating experience, technological

advancement, modern safety analysis, and credible risk. A risk-informed, performance-based, and predictable regulatory framework strengthens safety by focusing regulatory attention and resources on issues that are genuinely safety-significant while reducing unnecessary burden in areas that do not contribute meaningfully to safety outcomes.

Congress has established a strong foundation for modernization, and recent executive action has helped translate that direction into a more urgent implementation agenda. The Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA) directed the NRC to modernize its licensing and regulatory processes, establish performance metrics, improve predictability, and expand the use of risk-informed, performance-based approaches. The ADVANCE Act built on that foundation by directing additional improvements to licensing, oversight, fee recovery, environmental reviews, and the agency's treatment of advanced reactor technologies. It also updated the NRC's mission to recognize that licensing and regulation should be conducted efficiently and should not unnecessarily limit the civilian use of nuclear energy or the benefits of nuclear technology to society. Executive Order 14300, *Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission*, has reinforced that direction by accelerating implementation of these reforms and requiring the agency to align its structure, processes, and regulatory framework with that revised mission and with the nation's energy, economic, and security needs.

The results are increasingly evident. Earlier this year, the NRC finalized Part 53, the first new reactor licensing framework developed in decades. Completed ahead of the statutory deadline, Part 53 provides a flexible, technology-inclusive framework designed specifically for advanced reactor technologies. The NRC is also advancing additional modernization initiatives, including new licensing approaches for microreactors and other reactor technologies whose risk profiles differ significantly from those of traditional large light-water reactors. The agency has

also proposed, finalized, or is actively developing numerous other regulatory reforms intended to improve efficiency, predictability, and regulatory focus while maintaining rigorous safety oversight.

Meaningful progress is also evident in the regulation of the existing fleet. Over the past year, the NRC has approved license renewals for eighteen reactors, securing nearly 17,000 megawatts of carbon-free generating capacity for an additional twenty years of operation. The agency also completed the fastest license renewal review in its history, approving Duke Energy's H.B. Robinson Nuclear Plant in Hartsville, South Carolina, in less than twelve months. These accomplishments demonstrate that modernization can improve regulatory efficiency while preserving the NRC's commitment to safety and technical rigor.

NEI has provided extensive recommendations to assist the NRC in implementing these reforms across licensing, oversight, inspection, environmental review, and fuel-cycle regulation. The objective is a regulatory framework that preserves the NRC’s safety mission while improving predictability, timeliness, and focus as the agency manages both continued operation of the existing fleet and a growing volume of new technology applications.

Several bills before the Subcommittee would further support these modernization efforts. The Efficient Nuclear Licensing Hearings Act (H.R. 5549) would modernize NRC adjudicatory procedures to better align with the volume and pace of anticipated licensing activity. The legislation would eliminate the mandatory uncontested hearing requirement, expand the use of informal adjudicatory procedures for appropriate licensing actions, and establish more efficient hearing processes for uranium enrichment facilities and certain reactor licensing proceedings. These reforms would preserve meaningful opportunities for public participation and adjudicatory review while reducing unnecessary procedural burden and delay.

The mandatory uncontested hearing requirement was developed for a different regulatory environment and can add substantial delay even when no contested issue exists. Eliminating that requirement would not affect the public's ability to request a hearing on specific issues. Rather, it would allow the NRC to focus adjudicatory resources where genuine disputes exist and improve the efficiency and predictability of licensing decisions as deployment activity increases. More broadly, the legislation is consistent with ongoing efforts to streamline adjudicatory processes while preserving fairness, transparency, and sound regulatory decision-making.

The Nuclear Advisory Committee Reform Act discussion draft would similarly help ensure that the NRC's independent technical review resources are focused where they provide the greatest value. The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards plays an important role in providing independent technical advice to the Commission and supporting public confidence in the regulatory process. The discussion draft would preserve that role while better focusing ACRS reviews on issues that are safety significant, technically novel, or particularly important to Commission decision-making. This targeted approach would strengthen both regulatory effectiveness and efficient use of agency resources.

Regulatory modernization is important not only for safety, but also for investment and deployment. Predictable licensing pathways, disciplined review schedules, and clear regulatory expectations allow utilities, developers, investors, customers, and state regulators to make long-term decisions with greater confidence. As deployment activity expands, continued implementation of Congress's modernization goals, reinforced by the Administration's implementation efforts, will help ensure that the regulatory framework remains capable of supporting both long-term operation of the existing fleet and deployment of new technologies.

IV. Scaling deployment requires addressing early-mover risk.

The United States has made significant progress in creating the conditions necessary for new nuclear deployment. Congress has established important incentives through clean electricity tax credits, loan authorities, domestic fuel-cycle investments, and cost-shared deployment programs. The Department of Energy's Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program and Generation III+ Small Modular Reactor Program are helping move new technologies toward commercial deployment while generating manufacturing, regulatory, and construction experience. Together, these efforts have strengthened the foundation for a new generation of nuclear projects.

As discussed in the previous section, advanced reactor technologies are now moving through licensing, demonstration, and early construction. The principal challenge facing large-scale deployment is therefore no longer technology development. Rather, it is the concentration of cost and schedule risk on a limited number of early projects that must establish supply chains, train workforces, finalize designs, navigate first-of-a-kind construction challenges, and absorb uncertainties that later projects are unlikely to face.

Utilities, regulators, investors, and customers increasingly recognize the value of nuclear energy's reliability, fuel security, and long-term affordability. However, the financial risks associated with early deployment remain substantial. Long development timelines, large upfront capital requirements, and the potential for cost escalation can make it difficult to approve projects even when the long-term need for reliable electricity is clear.

The objective is not simply to deploy individual projects. It is to establish a durable pipeline of projects that can move from first-of-a-kind deployment to repeatable construction. As designs are standardized, supply chains mature, workers gain experience, and construction

practices improve, costs and risks decline. Achieving those nth-of-a-kind benefits—and ultimately deploying nuclear energy at the scale needed to support reliability, affordability, economic growth, and national security—requires successful deployment of the initial projects that create the learning curve.

Addressing this challenge will require targeted policies that reduce early-mover risk while preserving incentives for project discipline and private investment. The recently reintroduced Advancing Reliable Capacity (ARC) Act (S.3814) in the Senate provides a promising framework, and NEI looks forward to working with Members of the House on companion legislation or a similar policy approach. Through the Department of Energy's financing authorities, the ARC Act would provide limited federal risk-sharing for cost growth resulting from factors outside the reasonable control of early project sponsors, while requiring strong project management and risk-mitigation practices. This approach would help reduce uncertainty for utilities, regulators, customers, and investors while preserving accountability for project performance.

Existing federal incentives also remain an important part of the solution. The clean electricity tax credits enacted by Congress have significantly improved project economics and provide an important foundation for future deployment. Additional refinements could further improve their effectiveness for projects with long development and construction timelines. In particular, the Nuclear Rate Stabilization Act (H.R. 8482) would allow taxpayers to transfer credits associated with qualified progress expenditures during construction and would provide a normalization opt-out for regulated utilities, enabling the value of those credits to be passed through to customers more effectively. These changes would improve the usability of existing incentives, reduce financing costs, and support customer affordability.

Federal financing programs remain central to the early-mover framework. DOE's Energy Dominance Financing program and other federal authorities can help manage the challenges associated with large upfront capital investments and support projects as they move from development through construction. When paired with targeted risk-sharing mechanisms such as the ARC Act and improved monetization of existing tax incentives, these financing tools can help attract private capital while reducing costs for customers.

DOE's reactor pilot efforts, now being expanded through the Nuclear Energy Launch Pad, can play an important role in that transition. Demonstrations do not by themselves establish commercial deployment at scale, but they can provide operating experience, validate safety cases, develop supply chains, train workers, inform regulatory reviews, and build confidence among customers, investors, regulators, and communities. Similar benefits can also result from Department of Defense reactor development and demonstration programs, underscoring the importance of coordination across federal efforts to ensure that lessons learned can support broader commercial deployment. To maximize the value of these efforts, reactor demonstration and pilot programs should be implemented in a manner that produces clear lessons for subsequent commercial licensing and deployment, including through transparent coordination with the NRC and effective coordination among DOE, the Department of Defense, and other federal agencies pursuing advanced reactor development and deployment. The Department of Energy Nuclear Transparency Act (H.R. 9084) could further advance these goals by promoting transparency in DOE nuclear activities, helping build public trust and confidence in nuclear energy while ensuring that information generated through demonstration programs can effectively inform future deployment decisions.

The objective should be clear: establish a durable pipeline of projects capable of

delivering the standardization, workforce development, supply-chain maturity, and cost reductions necessary for long-term deployment. Targeted support for a limited number of early projects can reduce risk, improve affordability, attract private investment, and accelerate the transition from demonstration to large-scale commercial deployment.

V. A secure domestic nuclear fuel cycle is critical to plant operation and national security.

The United States must have a secure and reliable nuclear fuel cycle to sustain the existing fleet, support new reactor deployment, and protect national security. Recent geopolitical developments have underscored the risks associated with dependence on foreign sources of uranium, conversion and enrichment. Reducing those vulnerabilities and rebuilding domestic capability is now a strategic imperative.

Congress has already taken important steps to address this challenge. Investments in the fuel cycle are helping reestablish critical domestic infrastructure that has atrophied over decades. Timely and effective deployment of appropriated funding will be essential to attracting private investment, expanding commercial capability, and creating a durable domestic fuel supply chain.

The Administration has similarly elevated fuel security as a national priority. Through Executive Order 14302, *Reinvigorating the Nuclear Industrial Base*, Defense Production Act authorities, and public-private initiatives to expand mining, conversion and enrichment, the Administration has taken important steps to strengthen domestic fuel-cycle capabilities and reduce reliance on adversarial suppliers. NEI supports these efforts and encourages their continued implementation.

Several proposals currently under consideration would further support these objectives. The American Enrichment Deployment Act discussion draft would help facilitate timely development of domestic enrichment capacity by modernizing the licensing framework

applicable to uranium enrichment facilities. The legislation would allow certain construction activities to proceed at an applicant's risk before completion of the licensing process, consistent with authorities already available for other fuel-cycle facilities. At the same time, it preserves the NRC's independent licensing authority, safety oversight responsibilities, and existing public hearing rights. As the United States seeks to expand both LEU and HALEU production capabilities, regulatory frameworks should support efficient project development while maintaining rigorous safety and security review.

Fuel security policy must also remain practical. Rebuilding domestic and allied fuel-cycle capability will require sustained effort over many years. During that transition, policymakers should avoid actions that could inadvertently disrupt fuel supplies to operating reactors or increase costs for consumers. Continued cooperation with trusted international partners will remain important even as domestic capabilities expand.

The objective should be clear: translating appropriations, executive actions, and legislative reforms into tangible fuel-cycle capability. Success ultimately will be measured not by programs or authorities, but by operating facilities, qualified suppliers, commercial fuel production, and a secure domestic supply chain capable of supporting both the current fleet and the next generation of nuclear technologies.

VI. Used fuel disposal and recycling should advance as part of an integrated national strategy.

For decades, the nuclear industry has safely and securely managed used fuel at reactor sites. More than 4,300 NRC-licensed dry storage systems are currently in service, demonstrating a strong safety record while the industry awaits implementation of a federal disposal program.

The federal government retains responsibility for the long-term management and disposal of used nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. As the existing fleet continues operating

and new reactors are deployed, establishing a durable framework for fulfilling that responsibility becomes increasingly important.

After years of limited progress, used fuel management and recycling are again receiving significant federal and state attention. This renewed engagement presents an opportunity to develop a more comprehensive approach to the back end of the fuel cycle, but it also highlights the importance of establishing a framework that can be sustained over decades and implemented in a manner that protects ratepayers, communities, and existing contractual rights.

An effective national strategy should address storage, transportation, recycling, and permanent disposal as interconnected elements of a broader system. It should preserve federal responsibility for disposal, honor Standard Contract obligations, protect ratepayer interests, and ensure that Nuclear Waste Fund resources are used for their intended disposal-related purposes.

Recycling and advanced fuel-cycle technologies ultimately may improve resource utilization, support advanced reactor deployment, strengthen long-term fuel supply, and reduce certain disposal burdens. However, recycling should complement—not replace—the federal government's responsibility to establish disposal pathways for used fuel and remaining waste streams. Likewise, deployment of commercial-scale recycling technologies should be guided by technical readiness, market demand, transportation capabilities, and the availability of supporting waste management infrastructure. Recent federal initiatives, including DOE's consideration of integrated Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses and broader fuel-cycle policy reforms, have expanded engagement with states and other stakeholders. Those efforts may help identify pathways that integrate disposal, recycling, fuel-cycle infrastructure, and advanced reactor deployment in ways that better align federal, state, and private-sector interests.

Advancing recycling technologies will also require attention to the regulatory framework governing their development and deployment. The Nuclear REFUEL Act (H.R. 3978) reflects an important effort to facilitate development of advanced recycling technologies by ensuring that licensing requirements are appropriately tailored to the risks presented by particular recycling processes. At the same time, no single statutory change is likely to resolve all of the technical, regulatory, and commercial challenges associated with recycling technologies. As Congress considers potential reforms, NEI recommends adoption of an approach that ensures all recycling and reprocessing facilities be licensed and regulated under 10 CFR Part 70. The Part 70 framework is appropriate for these facilities because it was specifically designed for fuel-cycle activities. The regulations address radiological, chemical, and criticality hazards while also establishing comprehensive requirements for the protection of special nuclear material, including measures to prevent theft and diversion. Accordingly, Part 70 provides a proven framework for addressing safety, security, and proliferation concerns.

A durable used fuel strategy will require effective governance, credible disposal pathways, appropriate use of Nuclear Waste Fund resources, collaborative siting approaches, continued technology development, and a regulatory framework that supports responsible innovation. Congressional leadership will be essential to establishing a framework that fulfills federal obligations, enables responsible innovation, and supports long-term growth of the nuclear energy sector. NEI looks forward to continuing to work with the Committee, the Administration, states, communities, and other stakeholders to advance durable solutions for used fuel management and disposal while supporting innovation across the nuclear fuel cycle.

VII. Workforce and supply-chain readiness are essential to deployment at scale.

Achieving the level of deployment discussed throughout this testimony will require substantial expansion of both the nuclear workforce and the domestic nuclear supply chain. The

nuclear sector already supports high-quality jobs in operations, engineering, construction, manufacturing, maintenance, security, and skilled trades. Deployment of new reactors, fuel-cycle facilities, and supporting infrastructure will increase demand for welders, electricians, pipefitters, engineers, operators, project managers, technicians, and manufacturing specialists. These positions provide long-term career opportunities while supporting economic growth in communities across the country.

Meeting future workforce needs will require continued coordination among Congress, federal and state agencies, industry, labor organizations, universities, community colleges, and the military. Apprenticeships, technical training programs, university research initiatives, and skilled-trade partnerships all play important roles in developing the next generation of nuclear workers.

The NRC Staff Pay Alignment Act discussion draft could help the NRC attract, retain, and develop the highly qualified workforce needed to fulfill its important safety and regulatory mission. A strong nuclear industry depends on a strong and effective regulator, and enhanced pay authorities can help the NRC compete for exceptional talent in an increasingly competitive labor market. At the same time, NEI believes such authorities should be applied judiciously and remain tied to demonstrated leadership and performance.

Supply-chain readiness is equally important. Expanded deployment will require additional domestic manufacturing capacity for major components, fuels, instrumentation and control systems, construction materials, and specialized services. Manufacturers and suppliers

are more likely to make long-term investments in facilities, equipment, and workforce development when regulatory pathways are predictable and project pipelines are visible.

Policy can help support those investments. Efficient licensing, durable deployment programs, practical domestic-content policies, support for manufacturing expansion, and coordinated federal engagement can reduce uncertainty and encourage private-sector investment throughout the nuclear supply chain.

Workforce development and supply-chain expansion are not separate challenges; they are enabling conditions for sustained deployment. Progress in both areas will be necessary to support long-term operation of the existing fleet and successful deployment of new nuclear technologies.

VIII. U.S. nuclear leadership is an economic and national security imperative.

Growing global demand for reliable, affordable, and secure electricity is creating new opportunities for civil nuclear energy deployment around the world. Whether U.S. companies are positioned to capture those opportunities will have important implications for economic competitiveness, energy security, and national security.

American companies remain global leaders in reactor technology, fuel-cycle services, operational performance, safety, and innovation. At the same time, international nuclear markets are increasingly competitive and often shaped by coordinated government support.

Russia and China continue to deploy state-backed financing, fuel services, export support, and diplomatic engagement to secure long-term nuclear partnerships. These arrangements frequently extend beyond individual reactor projects and can influence fuel supply relationships, infrastructure development, and broader geopolitical alignment for decades.

Maintaining U.S. leadership will require a coordinated national strategy. Domestic deployment remains a critical component of that effort because international customers place

significant value on technologies that have been licensed, constructed, and operated successfully in their country of origin.

Federal policies also play an important role in international competitiveness. Export financing, Development Finance Corporation authorities, Export-Import Bank support, nuclear cooperation agreements, efficient export authorization processes, and coordinated diplomatic engagement all affect the ability of U.S. companies to compete in global markets.

Nuclear energy also has important national security applications. Advanced reactor technologies can provide resilient power for military installations, remote operations, and other critical infrastructure. As discussed above, Department of Defense and Department of Energy initiatives can help establish early markets for these technologies while strengthening the broader domestic nuclear industrial base.

Congress has already strengthened the foundation for U.S. nuclear exports and international engagement through export financing authorities, international cooperation initiatives, and support for civil nuclear partnerships. Continued implementation of these policies will help ensure that the United States remains a global leader in nuclear technology and deployment.

IX. Conclusion

The United States has entered a period of renewed nuclear development and deployment. Since I last testified before this Subcommittee in January, significant progress has been made across the sector. Congress and the Administration have advanced regulatory modernization,

strengthened domestic fuel-cycle capabilities, supported deployment of new technologies, and reinforced the role of nuclear energy in meeting growing electricity demand.

The challenge now is translating that progress into sustained deployment at scale. Achieving that objective will require continued operation and expansion of the existing fleet, successful deployment of new reactor technologies, modernization of the regulatory framework, development of a secure domestic fuel cycle, implementation of a durable used fuel strategy, expansion of workforce and supply-chain capacity, and continued U.S. leadership in international nuclear markets.

The legislation before the Subcommittee would contribute to several of these objectives by supporting regulatory modernization, strengthening domestic nuclear capabilities, and helping establish conditions necessary for long-term investment and deployment.

NEI appreciates the Committee's continued leadership on nuclear energy issues and looks forward to working with Congress, the Administration, states, labor organizations, industry, and local communities to support reliable, affordable, and secure nuclear energy for the American people.

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