

**Chairman Brett Guthrie Opening Statement
Subcommittee on Energy Hearing
“Nuclear Spent Fuel Policy: Examining Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation
Campuses”
Tuesday, September 15, 2026**

As prepared for delivery

Thank you, Chairman Latta, for holding today’s hearing and thank you to our witnesses.

As momentum grows in support of nuclear energy, so do economic opportunities and potential new options for durable nuclear fuel and waste policy.

States have been stepping up to expand or develop nuclear programs, working to provide the sites, the supply chains, and fuels for the reactors we will need to secure our energy future.

Today, we will be examining a Department of Energy proposal relating to spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.

Packaging nuclear waste disposal obligations within a broader economic development program has prompted several states to come forward voluntarily to express interest in learning more about what it would mean to become a host site.

The economic benefits of the proposed Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus program could amount to billions of dollars

over decades and include workforce and tax-base benefits that could transform the communities.

Under current law, which I continue to support, the communities surrounding Yucca Mountain and the host state already stand to benefit from a 90-billion-dollar project to provide a permanent repository for nuclear waste.

Yet even under current law, the need to develop alternative repositories and new technologies to deal with spent fuel and waste has always been on the horizon.

This project is in its beginning stages, so I look forward to discussing what may be done to enable an important opportunity—while protecting the long-term interests of ratepayers who fund the nuclear waste program and taxpayers.

Thank you, and I yield back.

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