



United States Nuclear Industry Council  
1317 F Street NW Washington, DC 20004

To:

**The Honorable Paul Tonko**

Chairman  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Subcommittee on Environment & Climate Change  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable David B. McKinley**

Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Subcommittee on Environment & Climate Change  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable Bobby Rush**

Chairman  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Subcommittee on Energy  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable Fred Upton**

Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Subcommittee on Energy  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Tonko, Rush, and Ranking Members McKinley and Upton:

I write on behalf of the United States Nuclear Industry Council (USNIC) regarding your subcommittee's upcoming hearing regarding the supply chain needs for a clean energy future. The adequacy of a robust supply chain is a central element confronting the United States', and indeed the world's, ability to meet the transition from our current means of energy production to that of a lower carbon future.

Accordingly, your subcommittees are to be commended for holding the upcoming hearing this week on "Securing America's Future: Supply Chain Solutions for a Clean Energy Economy." I would be remiss, however, if I did not note the absence of a focus on the supply chain issues attendant to the most promising source of zero carbon electricity generation technology—advanced nuclear technology.

Because of the significant contribution that advanced nuclear can make to the future of the carbon reduction goals, and recognized to be crucial to meeting any realistically significant carbon reduction in the generation of electricity, I urge that future hearings focusing on this important area will be inclusive and will cover the important issues challenging today's nuclear energy supply chain. As you consider the substance of these future hearings, serious consideration should be given to currently available data on the science, economics, and national security data that is attendant to our nuclear future, and the crucial role that supply chain issues form the foundation for the success, or failure, of our future.

As we are all aware, businesses must constantly evaluate and limit risk as they determine where to allocate capital. No sensible businessperson would allocate capital for major investment in a venture absent the ability to identify a source of items needed to complete production. Imagine investing in the auto industry with no identifiable or reliable source of tires, headlights, lubricants, etc. Yet the nuclear industry, especially the advanced nuclear industry, face a roughly analogous situation.

Consider the most immediate and perhaps most glaring issue. Highly Enriched Low Assay Uranium (HALEU) is the fuel that will be needed to operate many of the most innovative and beneficial technologies that are being developed. Yet, the United States today has a wholly inadequate ability to produce this fuel. Shockingly, we remain captive to Russia for the fuel that we will rely on to power our advanced nuclear fleet. Yet this is far from the only supply chain issue our country faces.

From 1969-1990 over 40% of the entire world's nuclear fleet relied on the United States for materials needed to supply operations. Between 1991 to 2017 that 40% was eroded by China and Russia, to the point that today the US supplies only 8% of this market need. This alarming statistic alone deserves the attention of Congress, with a close examination not only of the cause of this erosion, but more importantly the implications these negative supply chain matters have upon America's future on the nuclear energy front.

It is worth also noting that jobs in the nuclear sector pay exceptionally well. Median salaries for permanent nuclear energy jobs are 20% higher than those for coal and natural gas, and a full 65% higher than for solar and wind. Billions of dollars in economic activity will follow deployment of advanced nuclear facilities. Jobs, tax revenues, and increased standards of living will flow with advanced nuclear development. Failing to maintain the economic value attendant to the nuclear energy sector would in itself be irresponsible. Failing to open even broader opportunities associated with advanced nuclear would be tragic.

Sadly, however, over the last 25 years there have been only two new nuclear plants connected to the U.S. grid and today there is only one active new nuclear plant build project under construction and that project is nearing completion. As a result, the U.S. commercial nuclear supply chain has atrophied and will require special attention if it is to support the deployment of a new generation of advanced reactors that are required to meet this Nation's decarbonization goals targeted for the electricity sector.

In sum, if the United States expects to be a relevant player in the advanced nuclear future, we must ensure that the private sector is convinced that the investment of capital is rational, and that there is unwavering support from the federal government to do its part to ensure the success of America's otherwise unmatched ability to meet the challenges faced in the advancement of clean and safe nuclear energy.

We cannot recapture America's once dominant position as the world leader in all things nuclear without addressing where we stand today and what is needed to regain preeminence. For this we must have the support of the federal government. Accordingly, USNIC looks forward to doing anything we can to help parse out the various challenges and opportunities to ensure that America rises to reclaim our role as the leader in a clean nuclear energy future.

Sincerely,

Bud

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bud Albright', written in a cursive style.

Bud Albright  
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