

OPENING STATEMENT
Ranking Member Alan Grayson

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Subcommittee on Energy
“H.R. 4084, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act”
December 3, 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing and thank you to the witnesses for being here today.

The bill we are here to discuss, H.R. 4084, aims to provide the tools and resources that scientists and engineers in government, academia, and the U.S. nuclear industry need to once again be the world leader in designing and building advanced nuclear power plants.

These new designs have the potential to be much safer and efficient, while producing less waste. Although the challenge of high capital costs for nuclear energy still remains, the environmental and reliability benefits of nuclear power are more important than ever as countries around the world attempt to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

I certainly support an “all of the above” approach toward a clean energy economy. Achieving safer, more cost-effective, and environmentally friendly ways to utilize nuclear energy must play a key role in this mix. We just need to make sure that we are making the smartest investments we can with our limited resources, and that they are in the best interests of the American people.

And while researching next generation nuclear fission concepts is important, I am also a strong supporter of making much larger investments in fusion energy research. I believe now is the time to build and operate experiments capable of demonstrating that man-made fusion systems can consistently produce far more energy than it takes to fuel them.

So I am looking forward to hearing Mr. Rothrock’s perspective on the promise that fusion energy holds and the progress that has been achieved in recent years. Our ultimate goal should be the cleanest and most abundant energy source possible. I believe fusion energy may well be that resource.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses and working with the Chairmen and Ranking Member to improve this legislation. Thank you and I yield back.