

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 15, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20050

Dear President Trump,

We write to urge immediate action to support clean American electricity generation in the form of nuclear power. Rapid changes in the energy sector over the last decade, most notably the discovery of large amounts of natural gas and the corresponding advancements in drilling technology, have driven down the price of electricity generation from gas-fired power plants and undercut baseload generation at nuclear power plants.

Nuclear power is abundant, reliable, inexpensive, carbon free, and relatively immune from unpredictable conditions that can disrupt the delivery of other fuels. From a national security perspective, nuclear energy is a key component of our national nuclear strategy. Premature closure of America's nuclear power plants threatens our competitive edge in this field. Without a commitment to nuclear power, nuclear technology development will decline and the Nation's technical advantage in this sector will rapidly erode. Our commercial nuclear energy industry and the United States' nuclear weapons complex complement each other to ensure our great Nation maintains the best nuclear talent and technology in the world. According to a report by the Global Nexus Initiative, if current trends continue, the U.S. will cede its lead in the nuclear power market to Russia, China, and India in the coming decades.

The Energy Futures Initiative, which is led by Former Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, recently released a report that stated that a commercial atomic power sector is necessary to keep uranium-processing technology away from terrorists and other bad actors. Additionally, it will support nuclear-powered Navy vessels. The U.S. needs companies and engineers that can both build and run nuclear enterprises. The U.S. Navy's reactors require supplies and qualified engineers, and American nuclear scientists fill vital national security roles, it said. According to the report, a "shrinking commercial enterprise will have long term spillover effects on the Navy supply chain, including lessened enthusiasm among American citizens to pursue nuclear technology careers."

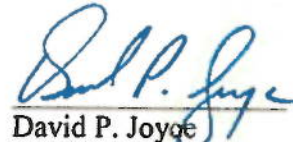
Unfortunately, recent news reports reveal that Ohio's only two nuclear power plants appear headed for premature closure. The Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear power plants in northern Ohio are important components to the regional economy and to America's energy security. These high-performing plants are economic engines that provide good-paying jobs both at the plants and through a far-reaching supply chain. These jobs support thriving communities and generate critical tax revenue that fund essential services. Northeast Ohio's Port Clinton News-Herald reported that public schools in Perry stand to lose \$2.3 million in funding if the Perry nuclear

power plant closes. In addition, Ohio's two nuclear power plants produce 90 percent of the state's carbon-free electricity.


We urge you and your Administration to step in and offer immediate assistance to prevent these critical generators from closing prematurely. A robust nuclear energy enterprise is a key enabler of the Nation's nonproliferation goals and supports both the fleet modernization plans of the U.S. Navy as well as the global strategic stability and deterrence value of nuclear weapons. We ask that your Administration work with Ohio and other states with nuclear power facilities in financial distress to harmonize federal and state policies affecting the design of organized electricity markets. Specifically, we believe that these markets should appropriately value attributes including reliability, supply diversity, greenhouse gas emissions, and relative national security importance. Time is of the essence.

Sincerely,


Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress


David P. Joyce
Member of Congress


Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress


Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

CC: Hon. Rick Perry, Secretary of Energy