



## UNITED STATES NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL

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January 8, 2018

Hon. Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Energy & Water Development  
United States  
Washington D.C. 20510

Hon. Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Energy & Water Development  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

Hon. Mike Simpson  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Energy & Water Development  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Hon. Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Energy & Water Development  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As the House and Senate Appropriations Committees begin final discussions on reconciling their respective FY2018 Energy and Water Development appropriations bills, the U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council (USNIC) is writing to reiterate its strong support for maintaining the Energy Policy Act of 2005 Title XVII funding for advanced nuclear loan guarantees and preserving the authorized lending authority for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Loan Programs Office (LPO).

The Council's business consortium members include the leading advanced nuclear reactor technology developers and the vanguard of the nuclear energy supply chain, including both light-water and advanced small modular reactors.

In our view, advanced nuclear technology loan guarantees are absolutely indispensable to any commercialization of advanced nuclear energy innovation, given the lack of availability of reasonably affordable private financing for first-of-a-kind projects. It is in light of this commercial market conundrum why at least two trailblazing advanced nuclear companies have already submitted their applications for loan guarantees to support deployment of new next-generation reactors in the 2020s. As per the findings of the Aspen Institute's "Future of Nuclear" report, "never in the history of nuclear power has a project been project financed; commercial banks are not coming into the space at all."

Advanced nuclear loan guarantees are especially crucial at this point in time when America's longstanding nuclear energy innovation leadership is being challenged globally by sovereign entities. As such, the Title XVII program and preservation of the authorized lending authority for LPO are pivotal to jobs, exports, clean energy and next generation American nuclear energy leadership.

The seminal importance of the Federal advanced nuclear energy loan guarantee program was reinforced in September with Energy Secretary Rick Perry's watershed action to provide an additional lending commitment to the Plant Vogtle Units 3&4 Project to support the construction completion of the U.S.'s flagship new build advanced nuclear project. Plant Vogtle Units 3 & 4 are the first new advanced nuclear plants to be built in the United States in 30 years. As a result of this project, more than 6,000 jobs have been created on site to build the units and accompanying facilities. More than 800 permanent employees are projected to operate and maintain the new units.

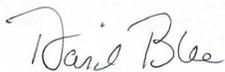
In short, advanced nuclear loan guarantees are a trifecta for taxpayers, American nuclear energy innovation, jobs exports and clean energy leadership. The program's direct costs are paid by the companies that submit applications, and each federal dollar of loan guarantees leverages approximately \$10 in private capital investment.

Notwithstanding this, projects in the pipeline would be nullified by both the House and Senate's proposed FY2018 Energy and Water appropriations and rescission of the remaining loan authority for advanced nuclear projects under Title XVII, while dealing a serious setback to the deployment of advanced nuclear technology in the U.S. and American competitiveness in the \$2 trillion global civil nuclear market.

We hope you will support the DOE Loan Programs Office, by maintaining its authority and monitoring its progress, and ensure these private sector investments are made to build and modernize our domestic advanced nuclear energy infrastructure.

Please note that while these views represent the consensus of the U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council, they do not necessarily represent the views of individual member companies.

Sincerely,



David Blee  
Executive Director  
U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council

