



The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
Environment and Public Works  
Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Ranking Member  
Environment and Public Works  
Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510



Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

We write to express our support for the S.4897, the American Nuclear Infrastructure Act of 2020 (ANIA), and to thank the Committee for reporting it out. The United States and the world face major environmental and economic challenges. Nuclear energy can help address these challenges. ANIA can enhance nuclear energy’s capabilities to do so by keeping existing nuclear reactors online, encouraging domestic innovation, and providing a foundation for next-generation nuclear reactors domestically and abroad.



The existing nuclear fleet provides more than 20 percent of U.S. electricity and more than half of U.S. carbon-free clean energy generation. ANIA is vital to maintaining the existing nuclear fleet, which faces the threat of continuing retirements in the next several years. Keeping reactors online preserves jobs, avoids carbon emissions, and prevents air pollution, saving lives.



ANIA also supports commercialization of the next generation of nuclear reactors that can play a major role in addressing climate change. Its licensing prize will incentivize advance reactor vendors to quickly bring their innovations to market while reducing the regulatory costs of next-generation clean energy. Advanced reactors can provide energy for more than just electricity, and the bill requires the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to report on licensing issues for these nonelectric applications, opening pathways for deep decarbonization of many sectors.



This bill, building off this committee’s previous bipartisan support for nuclear energy, would help the United States maintain its position as a global leader in nuclear power production and exports, supporting well-paying jobs across the country. By empowering the NRC to lead on international regulatory cooperation, the bill will assist global nuclear regulators and improve global safety culture. ANIA also opens U.S. markets for foreign investment by U.S. allies through reforming outdated Cold War-era restrictions on financing of American nuclear companies and projects. Finally, all of these initiatives will help preserve our country’s seat at the table in establishing and maintaining robust nuclear nonproliferation safeguards.



December 11, 2020

We appreciate the work of the Committee and urge the full Senate to take up ANIA expeditiously.

Sincerely,

Clean Air Task Force  
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions  
Fastest Path to Zero  
Good Energy Collective  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Niskanen Center  
Nuclear Engineering Department Heads Organization  
Nuclear Innovation Alliance  
Third Way  
United Steelworkers  
Utility Workers Union of America