



JENSEN HUGHES



The Honorable James Inhofe  
Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Reed:

We write to respectfully request that you include the bipartisan Nuclear Energy Leadership Act (S. 903) in the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act. The bipartisan committee amendment on nuclear energy filed by Senators Tillis, Manchin, Cramer, Heinrich, Blackburn, Duckworth, McSally, and Jones would add important provisions from NELA to the NDAA, and we support the amendment.

NELA would accelerate the commercialization of a new generation of nuclear reactors that are designed to provide energy in multiple ways beyond traditional large-scale nuclear electricity production. These new nuclear energy products are important components in a modern, clean, resilient energy system that can meet civilian and defense needs. With China and Russia now developing and exporting advanced reactors to strategically significant countries throughout the world, it is critical that the U.S. reassert leadership in this geopolitically important field.

NELA was reported out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee by voice vote and is cosponsored by nearly one-quarter of the Senate. Cosponsorship is bipartisan and includes eight members of your committee.

Throughout our country's history, military and civilian applications of nuclear technology have developed synergistically. Breakthroughs in civilian nuclear energy benefit the military, and military breakthroughs benefit civilian energy production.

In that tradition, the committee-reported NELA includes a significant role for the Department of Defense. The bill requires the Secretary of Energy to consult and coordinate with the Secretary of Defense on a long-term nuclear power purchase agreement pilot program. Projects to be operated by the Department of Defense would be eligible for the demonstration project section of the bill. Finally, the advanced nuclear fuel section of the bill requires consideration of the fuel needs of the Department of Defense. Because of the large role for the Department of Defense, the House of Representatives referred NELA to the House Armed Services Committee, in addition to other committees.

Your committee has shown great leadership on nuclear energy issues in past National Defense Authorization Acts, including the fiscal 2019 law, which created a pilot program for microreactors.

Because of the civilian, military, and geopolitical value of U.S. leadership in nuclear energy technology, we ask that this year's National Defense Authorization Act include the Nuclear Energy Leadership Act.

Sincerely,

List of signers next page

American Security Project  
Advanced Reactor Concepts  
American Public Power Association  
Advanced Nuclear Weapons Alliance (ANWA) Advocacy  
Bipartisan Policy Center Action (BPC Action)  
BWX Technologies, Inc.  
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions  
Centrus Energy Corp.  
Clean Air Task Force  
ClearPath Action  
Duke Energy  
Edison Electric Institute  
Energy for Humanity  
Energy Northwest  
Framatome Inc.  
GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy  
General Atomics  
Generation Atomic  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)  
Jensen Hughes  
Kairos Power LLC  
Lightbridge Corporation  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
The Nature Conservancy  
North American Young Generation in Nuclear  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
Nuclear Innovation Alliance  
NuScale  
Orano USA  
Southern Company  
TerraPower  
Terrestrial Energy USA  
Third Way  
Thorium Energy Alliance  
Ultra Safe Nuclear Corporation  
UrencoUSA  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute  
U.S. Nuclear Industry Council  
Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems  
Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium  
X-Energy, LLC  
Xcel Energy