

July 9, 2020

The Honorable Adam Boehler  
Chief Executive Officer  
U.S. International Development Finance Corporation  
1100 New York Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20527

Dear Mr. Boehler:

The creation of the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has opened the door for more effective and efficient U.S. development activities in emerging economies. As directed in the BUILD Act of 2018, the DFC's stated mission is to achieve the international development goals of the U.S. while also spurring U.S. economic interests. In line with this mission, the DFC should lift the existing restriction to financing civil nuclear development.

Lifting the prohibition opens the door for advanced nuclear energy technologies to be a key cog in the development of emerging economies. Breakthrough nuclear energy technologies are smaller in size, lower in costs, flexible, and provide carbon-free power. This advanced nuclear energy technology can be deployed on its own or in coordination with other energy sources in order to create a cost-effective and reliable grid that supports industrial activity and load growth. There are also an increasing number of nuclear reactor designs and concepts such as microreactors, being developed in the U.S., that may offer the very best, most affordable means to power remote communities, health centers, or schools. Put simply, advanced nuclear's inclusion in a technology-neutral DFC portfolio will allow developing countries to seek the energy options that meet their specific development needs.

Due to the potential of these reactors, markets are already emerging. Countries like India, South Africa, Mexico, and Brazil are already exploring advanced designs. Others like Jordan, Ghana, Kenya and Vietnam are also in earlier stages of exploration. However, American entrepreneurs face competition in providing reactors to these countries from China and Russia who are using state-owned technology to expand their influence.

This highlights another objective behind the creation of the DFC - countering ongoing Chinese and Russian efforts to gain the geopolitical upper hand and usurp the United States as the leading option for development support. Instead of ceding the sector to

China and Russia, DFC financing of advanced nuclear energy will provide confidence to the domestic nuclear industry and private investors that they can compete abroad.

The removal of this prohibition would also signal to the international energy and development communities that the U.S. is prepared to lead on clean energy development.

We support the proposal to lift the prohibition on nuclear financing and urge you to finalize the rule.

Sincerely,

**ClearPath Inc**  
**American Security Project**  
**BPC Action**  
**Breakthrough Institute**  
**Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions**  
**Energy for Humanity**  
**Global America Business Institute**  
**Nuclear Innovation Alliance**  
**Partnership for Global Security**  
**Rainey Center**  
**R-Street Institute**  
**Thirdway**

**Brazil-U.S. Business Council**  
**U.S.-Argentina Business Council**  
**U.S.-Colombia Business Council**  
**U.S.-Egypt Business Council**  
**U.S.-India Business Council**  
**U.S.-Mexico Economic Council**  
**U.S.-South Africa Business Council**  
**U.S.-Turkey Business Council**

**Admiral Richard Miles**  
*USN (Ret.)*

**Admiral Robert Natter**  
*USN (Ret.); President, RJ Natter & Associates, LLC*

**Admiral Timothy J. Keating**

*USN (Ret.)*

**Ambassador Thomas Graham**

*Executive Chairman, Lightbridge Corporation*

**Charles Mensa**

*Institute of Economic Affairs, Accra*

**Dennis Haley**

*CEO, Academy Leadership LLC*

**Fred McGoldrick**

*Consultant*

**Jay Tanega**

*University of Massachusetts - Amherst*

**Jennifer Gordon**

*Atlantic Council*

**Jessica Lovering**

*Carnegie Mellon University*

**Johannes Urpelainen**

*Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies*

**Kenneth Luongo**

*President, Partnership for Global Security; Former Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Energy for Nonproliferation Policy*

**Mark Thurber**

*Stanford University*

**Meghan Claire Hammond**

**Norm Augustine**

*Retired Aerospace Engineer*

**Peter Lyons**

*Former Commissioner, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Former Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, DOE*

**Seth Grae**

*President and CEO, Lightbridge Corporation*

**Stephen Lee**

*Massachusetts Institute of Tech*

**Ted Nordhaus**

*Breakthrough Institute*

**Todd Moss**

*Energy for Growth Hub*