

July 14, 2021



The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

We write to express our support for the advanced nuclear provisions in the Energy Infrastructure Act being considered by your committee today. Those provisions would authorize additional appropriations for the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (ARDP), establish a new clean energy demonstration program on mine lands, ensure efficient transfer of property interests, and require federal planning to enhance energy resilience with the use of micro nuclear reactors. The bill also makes important changes to the Department of Energy's loan program, which could provide financing for advanced nuclear projects.

Taken together, the measures in the bill would make progress toward ensuring U.S. leadership in commercializing the next generation of safe, carbon-free, reliable nuclear reactors, thereby providing a valuable tool for achieving global decarbonization goals.

Advanced reactors, which include new light water and non-light water reactor technologies, offer a wide range of new designs and features, including innovative coolants and fuels that allow for even lower-risk and higher-efficiency operation; passive safety features that can make reactors walk-away safe; and smaller sizes that reduce costs and increase flexibility. Reliable and dispatchable electricity from advanced reactors can provide a necessary complement to clean but variable power from wind and solar.

Today, our nation's existing nuclear plants provide safe, clean, reliable electricity and are economic engines for their communities. Building and operating the next generation of reactors in the United States will create thousands of new high-paying union jobs and provide safe, reliable, emissions-free electricity that is available year-round for decades to come. Importantly, developing these reactors in the United States will allow for the export of reactor and fuel technologies to help reduce the 85 percent of greenhouse gas emissions that originate from countries other than the United States.

We look forward to working with you to secure appropriations to carry out essential advanced nuclear programs like ARDP, including ARDP awards not addressed in the bill. Increasing authorization levels for the remaining ARDP programs and addressing the need for reliable, domestic sources of advanced nuclear fuel derived from high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) are also priorities for this group.

We support the advanced nuclear portions of the bill and look forward to working with you to advance those provisions.

Sincerely,

ARC Clean Energy LLC
Bipartisan Policy Center Action (BPC Action)
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
Clean Air Task Force
ClearPath Action
Climate Coalition
Framatome Inc.

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U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute
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