

# UNITED STATES NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL

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January 11, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Smith, Chairman  
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Ranking Member  
The Honorable Randy Weber, Chairman Subcommittee on Energy  
House Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Johnson and Chairman Weber:

The U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council commends you for your continued bipartisan leadership on behalf of advanced nuclear energy reactor innovation and development as manifested by the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act (H.R. 4084).

As the leading American business consortium advocate for new nuclear energy and the promotion of the U.S. supply chain globally, the Council believes that trailblazing the advance of nuclear energy technology including Gen 3+, Small Modular Reactors and Non-Light Water Reactor (LWR) Advanced Reactors is one of the key imperatives for U.S. market competitiveness and is vital to maintaining the U.S. lead in technology innovation, safety enhancements, energy security and carbon reduction.

To this end, we welcome the focus of the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act on enabling civilian research and development of advanced nuclear energy technologies through private-public initiatives including providing state-of-the-art research infrastructure, expanding access to the National Laboratories and encouraging technology transfer to the private sector.

We also applaud your date-certain requirement for the Secretary of Energy to “determine the mission need for a versatile reactor-based fast nuclear source, which shall operate as a national user facility” – and to provide a detailed plan including budget for the establishment of the user facility given the current lack of this asset in the United States for non-LWR technology advancement.

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.

Again, many thanks for championing this legislative measure. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Merrifield", is positioned above the typed name.

The Honorable Jeffrey S. Merrifield  
Partner, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP  
Chairman, NIC Advanced Reactor Task Force  
Commissioner, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (1998-2007)

Cc: Aaron Weston, HSSTC; Adam Rosenberg, HSSTC; David Blee, USNIC; Bobby Wilson, USNIC