



DEPARTMENT of ENGINEERING PHYSICS
College of Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison



Nuclear Engineering

Engineering Physics

Engineering Mechanics

Astronautics

December 7, 2015

Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Committee on Science, Space & Technology
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space & Technology
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Johnson:

I write you as a former member of the DOE Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee to express my support for H.R. 4084, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act of 2015.

It is clear to me that our country as well as the world will need to significantly expand its nuclear generating capacity in the coming decades to address growing energy demands while reducing free release emissions of SO_x, NO_x, particulates and greenhouse gases.

I support expanded federal engagement and investment in advanced light water reactors as well as advanced, non-light water nuclear research and development. Both are critical to achieving these overall objectives for a diverse and sustainable energy portfolio. The Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act would assist U.S. companies to access to the full range technical capabilities within the federal government and national laboratories; accelerate development of world leading scientific user facilities, and promote broader technology commercialization through public-private partnership initiatives.

As you may know, the United States led the world in developing new reactor technology for decades. However, several other nations, like China and Russia, have moved aggressively to develop so-called Generation IV reactors. Such reactor designs, while still under development may offer a wider range of energy products better utilizing our uranium fuel resource, improving safety and at competitive market prices. As such, the U.S. should recommit itself to improving its advanced reactor technology portfolio in order to maintain its influence over global nuclear safety and nonproliferation norms.

This legislation, if enacted, would provide needed support toward this objective. I would be happy to provide you more information or answer your questions (mlcorrad@wisc.edu).

Sincerely,

Michael Corradini
Wisconsin Distinguished Professor