COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY
Lamar Smith, Chairman

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**Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)**
*H.R. 4084, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act*

**Chairman Smith**: I thank my fellow Texans on the Committee, Randy Weber, Chairman of the Energy Subcommittee, and Eddie Bernice Johnson, Ranking Member of the Science Committee, for introducing this legislation.

I am glad to be a cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation along with many other members of the Science Committee, which include Representatives Lipinski, Loudermilk, Perlmutter, Comstock, Tonko, Bridenstine, Babin, Rohrabacher, Hultgren, and Westerman.

Today's hearing will examine H.R. 4084, the "Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act."

H.R. 4084 provides the Department of Energy (DOE) with the resources it needs to develop long term research and development (R&D) planning and infrastructure within its Office of Nuclear Energy.

These are the types of R&D investments that do not yield major rewards or profits in the short term, but provide the necessary capabilities for technology development that only the federal government has the ability to support.

This legislation authorizes DOE to take advantage of America's supercomputers in order to accelerate R&D for advanced fission and fusion reactor concepts with the help and expertise of the private sector, universities, and national labs.

The bill also puts forth a hard timeline for DOE to complete a research reactor within 10 years that will enable proprietary and academic research to validate supercomputing models.

Finally, H.R. 4084 creates a reliable mechanism for the private sector to partner with DOE labs and develop advanced fission and fusion prototype reactors at DOE sites.

Nuclear power has been a proven source of safe and emission-free electricity for over half a century since it was first developed in the United States.

However, our ability to move from R&D to market deployment has been hampered by government red tape. The U.S. has not lived up to its potential when it comes to nuclear energy.

The regulatory process is cumbersome and lacks the certainty needed for sustained investment in new nuclear energy technology.

This legislation enables our talented engineers in the private sector, academia, and at the national labs to develop the next generation of nuclear technology here in the United States.

It produces bipartisan long term R&D investments that will help spur American competitiveness and keep us on the forefront of nuclear energy technology.

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